

Justices' clerks seek tougher rules on fines

By Frances Gibb

Tougher sanctions involving more use of the threat of imprisonment to enforce payment of fines are urged by the Justices' Clerks' Society in its submissions, published today, on the Criminal Justice Bill.

The society is disappointed that the Bill in its committee stage in the House of Commons, does not make more fundamental changes on enforcement, which it says is by far the most urgent problem in relation to fines.

The fine is the principal weapon in the armory of the courts and is used for 48 per cent of offenders sentenced by crown courts and magistrates for indictable offences, the society says. Fines are imposed on 89 per cent of offenders sentenced for summary matters other than motoring, and on 99 per cent of those sentenced in motoring cases.

It is important that enforcement procedures should be certain and effective, the society says. If judges or magistrates were to lose confidence in the ability of the courts to recover fines, the use of them might diminish and could lead to more prison sentences.

The society rejects the minority view of the Wootton committee that the sanction of imprisonment should be removed for fine defaulters. "The plain fact is that greedy men who turn to dishonesty will not pay their fines unless faced with an alternative even less palatable to them."

For fines to be a real alternative to custody, courts must have the power to ensure they are paid promptly, the society says, and it urges an amendment allowing courts to fix an effective sanction against future default at the time of conviction.

Faced with a defendant not intending to pay a fine, or who already owed money, courts could proceed, under this amendment, to impose a fine rather than order imprisonment, knowing that any default would result in an immediate commitment to prison.

The society says that proposals in the Bill on suspended sentences aimed at reducing overcrowding in prisons will result in more people, not fewer, in custody.

It opposes proposals for courts to be able to suspend part of a sentence. "We fear,

notwithstanding the amendments which the Bill proposes, that there will be wide disparity not only in the use by courts of the partly suspended sentence as a sentencing option, but also in the way it was applied," the society says.

Under the Bill, where courts require a minimum of 28 days imprisonment, there is no restriction on the maximum period that might be suspended. For sentences of up to two years, courts may order 28 days to be served and leave the rest in suspense.

Alternatively, in the society's view, courts can order up to 75 per cent of the sentence to be served, leaving only 25 per cent suspended. The aim should be to reduce the period of custody.

Other proposals are that detention centres should be available for girls as well as boys and that courts should have power to commit girls aged 15 to 20 to centres for from 12 days to four months.

Since the early 1960s there have been no detention centres available for girls and the Bill would reinforce this discrimination as no girls' centres are proposed.

Crime by girls and young women has risen out of all proportion to youths since the early 1960s, the society says. The courts are now faced with more and more girls committing serious crime and for whom no appropriate sentence is available.

Penny-pinching by magistrates is resulting in rough justice for many who appear in court, according to a report today. The Legal Action Group, made up of lawyers and legal experts, says that people are considerably more likely to leave the dock of, for instance, Reading Magistrates' Court without a stain on their character than they are at the court at Slough, no far away.

The group says the problem centres on different attitudes of magistrates. Some are strict, upon which legal representation often depends. There are vast discrepancies in the way courts do about granting such aid, the group states. Its research shows that a legal application is 28 times more likely to be refused at Slough than it is at Reading.

This, the group believes means that more people have to fend for themselves in court and ultimately receive tougher treatment.

Cuts may close art gallery

By a Staff Reporter

One of Britain's most important regional galleries, Manchester City Art Gallery, is threatened with closure under proposals drawn up by council officials to meet the latest round of spending cuts. If implemented it would mean the collection of 7,000 oils, watercolours and drawings, plus its silver, pottery arms and clothing going into storage.

Mr Timothy Clifford, the director, said yesterday: "I am feeling stupefied and horrified. We have gradually been run down over the last three years and already all five of our branch galleries are closed. There is not much left to shut down."

Manchester City Council has instructed officials to draw up options to meet cuts in the arts

The cuts must come from the art gallery, the 25 branch libraries and central reference library, two municipal theatres and the repository company. Council officials are unwilling to let the full force of the cuts fall on the libraries because library use has been increased by 75 per cent in four years and they have no statutory duty to run the art gallery.

Shutting the two theatres would, on its own, only produce about half the money needed and the options for partial or total closure of the gallery will be considered by the Labour-controlled council's cultural services committee shortly.

Mr Clifford said he was concerned that the proposals would jeopardize gifts to the gallery and would adversely influence

Heart beats may give clue to cot deaths

By Annabel Ferriss
Health Services Correspondent

The deaths of more than 1,000 babies in Britain each year, from what has become known as cot death, could be due to abnormal heart and breathing rhythms, according to Dr David Southall, senior research fellow of the British Heart Foundation.

Dr Southall's electrocardiogram (heart tracing) is taken of newborn babies, about 1 per cent have a rhythm abnormality and some of those abnormalities are associated with sudden death in adults. Dr Southall has set up a large-scale research project to test his theory.

A total of 7,500 apparently healthy babies had their heart and breathing monitored over 24 hours at one week and at six weeks after birth. After one year, 15 babies in the group had died from cot death, a death rate of one per 500, the same as the national average.

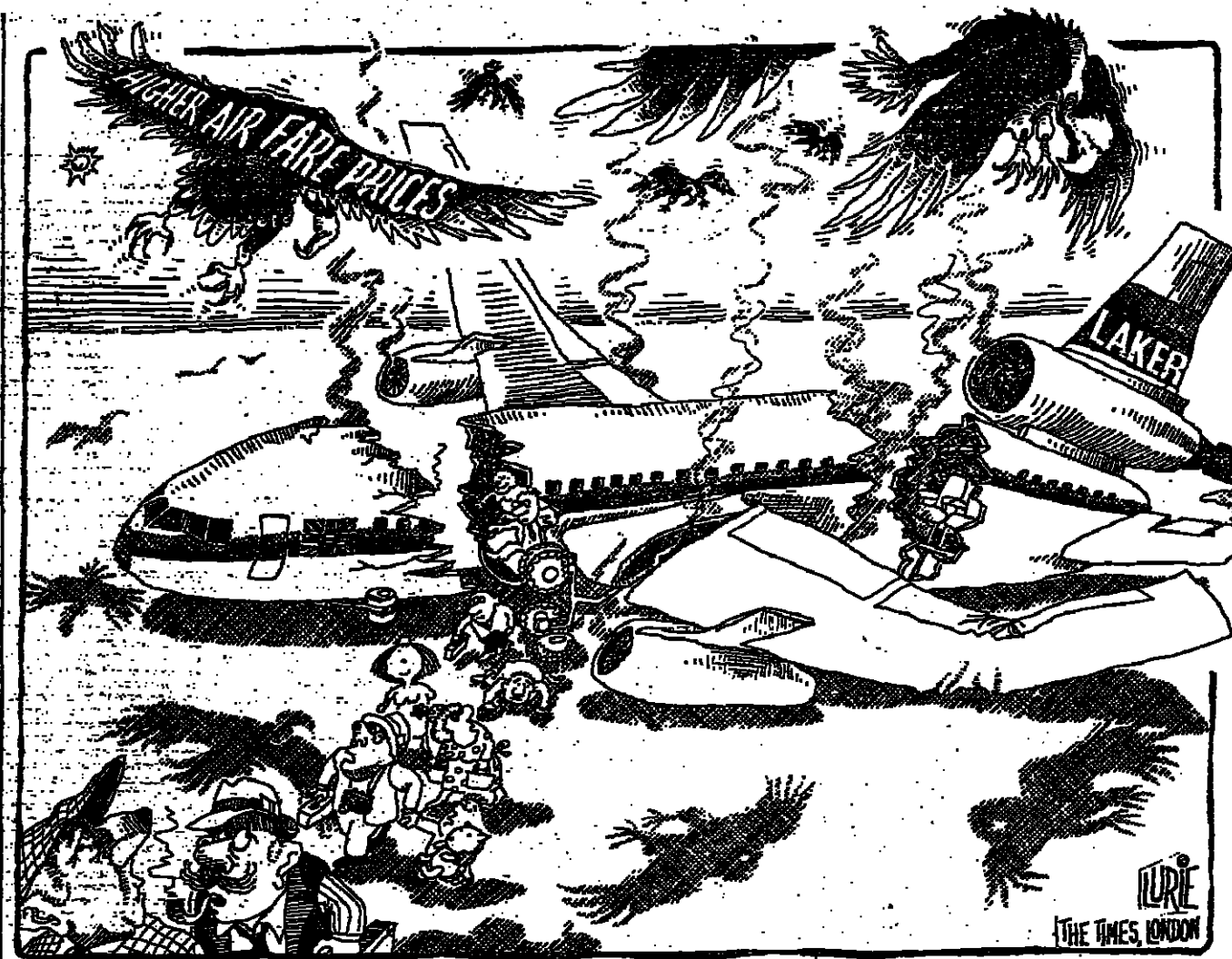
The original recordings of the 15 babies who died are being studied to see if any particular abnormality can be found. It is a massive task because the research team has to establish first what is normal, and a wide variation in heart and breathing patterns were recorded. No final result is expected for at least a year.

"It is tremendously important that the cause of cot death is discovered because it is something that has a shattering effect on parents," Dr Southall said. "There is no reason to believe that parents often feel that somehow they are at fault."

The research project, which involves a cross section of babies born in Brighton, Exeter and Doncaster between 1980 and July 1981, is based at the Brompton Hospital, London.

Dr Southall believes it was important to carry out a prospective study, that is, one involving apparently healthy babies, rather than a retrospective study because retrospective studies became distorted with hindsight.

Answers from parents whose babies have died mysteriously are not reliable as many are too upset to remember details. The research team at Brompton Hospital consists of Dr Southall, Dr Elliot Shiner, paediatric cardiologist, Miss Jean Richards, a full-time graduate research worker, three part-time graduates and 15 part-time housewives.



The future of Laker Cash offers from travellers

By John O'Leary and John Witherow

Promises of money to save Laker Airways continued to flood in yesterday to a rescue fund set up by Sussex hotelier. A London businessman offered to convert all the private donations into a bid for the company before the end of the week.

Mr James Brown, aged 31, is setting up a Laker Consortium Trust Account with accounts manager Leigh Carr and Partners, with the aim of coordinating the public response to the collapse of the airline. He estimates that £3m has already been promised to various private funds and that £10m would be sufficient to enlist the support of banks for a bid for at least part of the business.

The largest of the appeals, the FF (Freddie Friendly) Fund, set up by Mrs Kay Hardy, in Seaford, Sussex, has firm promises of more than £500,000 and is moving into the local branch of Lloyds Bank in an attempt to keep pace with the administrative demands of incessant calls from well-wishers. Mrs Hardy is meeting Mr Brown before deciding whether to co-operate in a bid.

Offers made over the week ranged from £1 to £100,000. A pensioner who had worked for Sir Freddie sent a cheque for £50 and the Police pop group promised to give the proceeds of a special concert.

Mr George Levy, chairman of the Friends of Kenwood House, Hampstead, north London, which was threatened recently when the Greater London Council proposed to sell the house, offered to sell his collection of the proceeds of a special concert.

"It is impossible to tell how much we might raise. My phone has never stopped ringing with offers of all sorts of amounts of money to help Sir Freddie because people feel that he helped them. I can just wear the credit of a while, we will have done something useful," she added. "Sir Freddie had telephoned her to express his thanks to the many private donors."

Laker desk at Gatwick Airport has also been inundated with offers of money, all of which have been referred to Mrs Hardy. Although no decision has been made about the use to which the money collected can be put, the organizers are adamant that it will not find its way into the hands of the receiver. Mr Ron Winter, another of the founders, said: "If we cannot collect enough to keep the show on the road, there is no reason why the money cannot be given to Laker to set up another business, with no strings attached."

Mrs Hardy is to meet Mr Brown to discuss his plans for a bid after hearing the advice of her bank manager. Mr Brown said yesterday: "This is a serious bid to buy Laker Airways on behalf of the British people and have Freddie Laker running his company. A lot of people who have taken advantage of cheap air travel owe him something and want to show it in cash."

Such signs, along with serious ones including declining turnover or boardroom strife, are indicative of impending financial gloom, according to Mr Bill Mackey, receiver called in by Laker.

Writing in a book called *Managing for Profit*, published last Friday by McGraw Hill, Mr Mackey gives his own list of warning signs: "Rolls-Royces with personalised number plates; fountain in the reception area; a flag pole; the Queen's Award for Industry (United Kingdom companies only); a chairman who is honoured for services to industry—every industry but his own; a salesman or engineer as chief executive; a recent move into modern offices."

Mr Mackey said yesterday that he knew nothing about Sir Freddie's personal assets. Sir Freddie is undoubtedly a very wealthy man. He lives at Chichester, near Lewes in Sussex, in a house which has 100 acres of land, six bedrooms and a swimming pool. He runs Woodcote Farm, near Epsom, Downs, where he keeps 24 race horses, some of them with names such as Take a Laker. He also owns a large farm at West Horsley, near Guildford, and an 85-ton yacht, Tuinella, which is permanently based in the Mediterranean and frequently employed as a floating conference room.

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Receiver lists the signs of a collapse. He is not sure how much of the company the public could acquire but would like to see Laker continue to fly the Atlantic. Any donations would be considered as interest-free loans and could be converted into shares at a later stage.

Mr Brown said he had been approached by a number of businessmen with millions of pounds to invest but he wanted to "buy Laker for the man in the street."

"We have to beat the sharks to the crunch. Whatever happens, Laker is going to be back in the air," Mr Brown said. He denied the company's collapse to Laker for the British economy.

"If the British public can make a stand against the recession by taking Laker off the floor and putting him back in the air, we could see that confidence permeate back through the rest of the economy."

Mr Colin Raworth, a West London shopkeeper, has also received promises of more than £100,000 since he launched his

"Save Freddie Laker Fund" on Friday. He said: "I am paying all my own expenses incurred so that every penny collected can be used for the sole purpose of getting Sir Freddie Laker back in business. The Government and City say they cannot help him, so why not let the public have a chance to show how they care?"

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Anger in council at failed firm

From Arthur Osman, Birmingham

A dispute is expected today at the meeting of the West Midlands County Council about a company which sought the investment of pension fund and ratepayers' money but has now gone into liquidation.

Mr Alan Hope, the leader of the Conservative group on the council, said yesterday that Mr Geoffrey Edge, the Labour chairman of the council's economic development committee, which was set up by Labour when it regained control last May. The unit intended to be a member of a consortium to produce an industrial adhesive which the company had developed but for which it has since agreed it does not have a British patent.

A confidential report by consultants commissioned by the unit had said that £620,000 would be required to restart the company. The county council, which covers 63,000 local government workers in the region, has asked Mr Edge for a report on the names of Fastback's creditors.

Mr Raymond Bennett, managing director of Fastback, said yesterday that he was disappointed by the company's endeavours to complete its negotiations with a consortium involving West Midlands County Council's economic development unit, which would have secured long-term growth and created new jobs, the directors have been left with no alternative but to formally request that these negotiations be terminated.

"In order to allow an already formed consortium to obtain the assignment of the project in under discussion, the directors have requested that its bankers should appoint a liquidator

Three specific complaints arising from that selection conference have been upheld by Mr Walter Brown, the party's assistant national agent in a confidential report to the national executive. Doubts have been raised, and confirmed, over the entitlement of some of the selection conference delegates to attend the meeting.

The report says that one councillor at the meeting was not a paid up member of the party until last December. The organizers of the selection conference also failed to give the required seven days' notice of the meeting, and the hall was inadequate because a dance band was practicing in a room above.

It is highly unlikely that the technical recommendation of the report will meet with any resistance from the Labour left on the executive; Mr Wall will be entitled to put his name forward again as a challenger to Mr Ford at a recalled selection conference.

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Science report

Hope of a cure for lead poison in swans

By Tony Samstag

A young veterinary surgeon believes he has found a cure for lead poisoning in swans. His unpublished and unconfirmed findings could halt the decline of the mute swan on such rivers as the Thames, Great Ouse and Trent. Mr S. W. Cooke says that of 78 birds treated with a combination of three drugs, 64 have been symptomatically cured, a success rate of 82 per cent. Those released have shown no tendency to relapse.

A letter last year to the *Veterinary Record*, Mr Cooke, who practices in Bracknell, Berkshire, offered a preliminary description of his treatment, a form of chelation therapy based on established treatment of lead poisoning in children. He described "a five-day course of the injectable chelating agent sodium calcium edetate and dimercaprol followed by a course of the oral drug penicillamine. The duration of which depends on the individual's response and history of exposure to lead."

The Greek and Latin antecedents of the word chelation mean claw; the English word refers to the action of the medicines in bonding with the heavy metal ions, which are, in effect, leached from the affected tissues and excreted.

The full course for a severely affected bird takes one to three months at a cost of about £40 per month. During that period a low-fibre diet is supplemented with a mineral-vitamin mixture containing calcium and iron, routine antibiotic and vitamin injections, and often tube-feeding with a conventional milk-based mixture such as Glaxo.

The treatment is nothing if not labour-intensive: Mr Cooke emphasizes the need for intelligent and diligent nursing, with regular messages to break down the impaction of fibrous food in the gizzard.

Mr Cooke concludes: "In the past many swans, geese and ducks suffering from lead poisoning have been destroyed because there has been no acceptable therapy available to treat them. I feel that we can now fill this gap in our therapeutic armory."

About 60 of the birds successfully treated by Mr Cooke are to be released at a swan sanctuary in Norfolk in the spring.

MILITANT FACES REJECTION

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Benjamin Ford, Labour MP for Bedford, Northampton and Luton, is expected to win an appeal against the selection of a Militant Tendency supporter as a replacement Labour candidate for his seat at the next general election.

An internal party report, to be submitted to a meeting of the party national executive on Wednesday, recommends that the replacement candidate, Mr Patrick Wall, should not be endorsed because of serious doubts over his selection last October.

Three specific complaints arising from that selection conference have been upheld by Mr Walter Brown, the party's assistant national agent in a confidential report to the national executive. Doubts have been raised, and confirmed, over the entitlement of some of the selection conference delegates to attend the meeting.


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The text of the letter sent on March 6 last year to Sir James Hamilton, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Education and Science, by Sir Henry Yellowlees, Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Security is as follows:

I am taking the unusual step of writing to you on this matter which is to come before the E(RA) Committee next week because the educational implications seem to me to be potentially important to DES.

It has been known for many years that lead is a hazard to health and the signs of overt lead poisoning—plumbism—are known to every medical student. More recently, however, it has become clear that lead poisoning may cause central nervous system damage to the population at large and particularly to children, with resulting minor intellectual deficits and minor behavioural disorders.

Although a good deal of environmental action has already been taken to reduce exposure to lead, it was decided to set up a working party under the chairmanship of Professor Pat Lawther to assess the situation with regard to lead in children in whom low levels of exposure to lead had been detected.

The Report of the Lawther Working Party was published in March 1980 and it was clear that at that time they were not convinced that the lead in petrol at low blood levels did not constitute a risk to children at intermediate blood levels. The risks could certainly not be ignored. Nevertheless, because of the general uncertainty the Working Party recommended that the Government should take measures to reduce exposure to the metal. Further research into the problem was known to be in the pipeline and was recommended to be continued and increased.

Some of the recommendations are uncontroversial, but on one important matter—that of lead in petrol—of which several departments involved have been unable to reach agreement and a comprehensive report will go out Monday next, E(RA) Committee of the Cabinet leaving this major item for ministerial resolution. There is no doubt that the simplest and quickest way of reducing lead is by reducing sharply or by entirely eliminating lead petrol. The Environment Department, Health Departments and Ministry of Transport are recommending a very considerable reduction in lead in petrol, but this is opposed by the Department of Energy and the Treasury on economic grounds.

I must make my own position clear. A year ago when the Lawther report was published there was a degree of uncertainty, but in petrol the evidence has accrued which though not in itself wholly conclusive, nevertheless strongly supports the view that:

(a) Even at low blood levels there is a negative correlation between blood lead level and IQ of the child; the simplest explanation is that the lead produces these effects;

(b) Lead in petrol is a major contributor to blood lead level and IQ, through the food chain as well as by inhalation.

Further research is being mounted but we are dealing here with the biological sciences where truly conclusive evidence may be unobtainable and it is therefore doubtful whether there is anything to be gained by deferring a decision until the results of further research become available.

There is a strong likelihood that lead in petrol is permanently reducing the IQ of many of our children. Although the reduction amounts to only a few percentage points, some hundreds of thousands of children are affected and as Chief Medical Officer I have a duty to recommend that action should now be taken to reduce markedly the lead content of petrol in use in the United Kingdom.

The risk to children is now shown to be too great for me to take any other course and I am, therefore, conveying this advice to the Secretary of State for DES and I am copying the letter to the Permanent Secretaries at the Home Office and the Department of the Environment being the other Government departments to which I owe responsibility.

You will know that several other major industrial nations faced with similar problems have opted for a lead-free petrol or for petrol with a very low lead level despite the substantial costs and the energy penalties so incurred.

I regard this as a very serious issue on which I should give you my opinion as Chief Medical Officer.

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Des Wilson, page 8

FitzGerald pledges new laws

From Richard Ford, Newbridge, co Kildare

Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, pledged at an election meeting on Saturday to end partitionist laws that have created a society that in many ways alien to the majority in Northern Ireland, he said.

But Dr FitzGerald, in impassioned remarks at the end of his speech, said that his party was committed to unity by consent. Although both he and Mr Charles Haughey, leader of Fianna Fáil, agreed that the North and Ireland would not be a central issue in the campaign, the Prime Minister is to make a speech on his constitutional crusade closer to polling day.

Canvassers have reported almost no public interest in the Ulster issue. An opinion poll published yesterday showed that only 10 per cent spontaneously identified as being important. Interest rising to 32.7 on a scale of 5 when people were prompted.

Dr FitzGerald, leader of Fine Gael, acknowledged the lack of interest when he told his audience in Newbridge that the problem of the north did not loom large enough in people's thoughts. There was ambivalence in the minds of many who say they want a united Ireland but flinch from what that would involve, from the changes that have to be made to bring it about.

Speaking on the eve of an opinion poll in the *Sunday Independent* that showed the opposition running neck and neck with Fianna Fáil, he said his party had moved away from the ancient cry "Give us back our country," which seemed to imply that a colony had been taken away.

The minority community in Northern Ireland saw that his party was prepared to do something about the problem. It had opened up lines of communication with both the majority and minority and that had produced results that were fermenting beneath the surface.

"We have created a society based on partition in the past

debate between Dr FitzGerald and Mr Haughey, which could prove crucial.

The latest opinion poll shows that Dr FitzGerald has opened a big personal lead over his rival, with 55 per cent of voters finding him an acceptable leader, only 25 per cent opting for Mr Haughey.

The opinion polls have greatly increased the morale of Fine Gael supporters. The increased confidence was evident yesterday during four hours of frenetic electioneering by Mr Bernard Durkan, the outgoing Fine Gael deputy, in rural Kildare.

Where else but in Ireland could a candidate spend all Sunday morning driving along winding country roads at high speed to catch the faithful leaving mass at eight different churches? Election agents in the republic need to know the times of mass in each village and how long the service lasts and the numbers who are likely to be there; a large attendance apparently indicating that the priest keeps everything as short as possible.

The Provisional IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army are reorganizing their command and control structures after a week of spectacular successes by security forces on both sides of the border (Tim Jones writes from Belfast). One source said in Belfast last night: "Only fools would write off the IRA but it seems their capacity to wage war is at its lowest ebb for many years."

More than 40 people suspected of what the police described as "serious terrorist offences" are being questioned after dawn raids on republican areas throughout the province over the weekend.

Police sources say the arrests follow sustained undercover work. But there is a strong suspicion that much of the information has come from a "supergrass" who is believed to be a former commander of the Provisional battalion of the IRA in the Markets area of Belfast.

WHITELAW SEEKS POLICE REFORMS

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CRE instructs companies not to discriminate

By Lucy Hodges

The Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) has issued formal notices against six organizations, including Massey Ferguson, Rank Leisure Services and the Prestige Group, instructing them not to discriminate. The six organizations' under investigation are, in turn, taking the commission to court to challenge the non-discrimination notices issued against them.

These details are given in a confidential 17-page memorandum which the CRE has sent to the Home Office and which amounts to a strong rebuttal of much of a report by an all-party of MPs last year, which was strongly critical of the commission. In its report, the Commons Home Affairs Committee was scathing about the commission's work on formal investigations into organizations for possible racial discrimination, accusing it of chasing "small fry" and of being slow to complete its reports.

In its formal response to the Home Office the commission accepts some of the criticism and says it is carrying out another review into procedures as a result of the report. But it points out that delay are caused by companies or other bodies it is investigating who then sue the CRE.

The Birmingham Area Health Authority is also appealing against a non-discrimination notice issued by the commission in the course of a formal investigation.

The CRE's greatest blow in the courts came last year in a case brought by Hillingdon council in west London which was upheld by Lord Denning. It is needed that the commission has had to stop seven of its investigations and resume with new terms of reference.

The inquiries it is having to restart include one into

the allocation of council housing by Walsall council, West Midlands, another into the employment of dustmen by Westminster council and a third into employment by Kirklees council, West Yorkshire.

In its paper to the Home Office the commission says that in more than five years in existence, it has published reports on 43 investigations and completed inquiries into 17 more. The select committee said the commission had finished only 10 out of 45 investigations by last spring.

The CRE rehearses many of the objections which it made when the MPs' report was published in December. It is understood that Mr William Whitlaw, the Home Secretary, shares some of the commission's views and last week made it clear to a delegation of senior trade unionists that aspects of the report were "unfairly critical" of the commission.

Senior CRE officials believe the Home Office will not accept the MPs' recommendations on the ending of the posts of deputy chairman and chief executive, now filled by blacks, of that the commission should be shorn of its grant-giving powers.

The commission has told the Home Office that the select committee completely misunderstood some aspects of its work, particularly the relationship between law enforcement and the promotion of good race relations.

It says that if its promotional work was confined solely to matters arising directly out of investigations, as the commission proposed, it would be neglecting an important duty imposed on it by the Race Relations Act. It would, for example, not be able to undertake the work it does with the police, education authorities and business organizations.

Record sum given to renovate theatre

By Christopher Warman
Arts Correspondent

A grant of £500,000 over the next five years is to be made to the Grand Theatre, Swansea, by the Arts Council towards the cost of improving facilities. That is the largest grant made by the council under its Housing the Arts scheme and is one of a series being given to help to renovate regional theatres.

Already the council has given £450,000 to the Palace Theatre, Manchester, and £500,000 to the Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

Apart from the New Theatre, Cardiff, the Grand at Swansea, is the only theatre in Wales capable of housing medium and large scale touring productions. It has serious difficulties both backstage and front of house which inhibit its development to its full potential.

The council said, the theatre's improvement scheme was expected to take about ten years and cost more than £5m. The grant is specifically for the early phases of the scheme including the reconstruction of the stage, construction of a new theatre entrance and of bars and restaurants.

The theatre is visited by the Welsh National Opera and runs a full programme of subsidized drama, opera and dance as well as commercial entertainment. It is expected that after the redevelopment the theatre will see more of the Welsh National Opera as well as tours from other companies.

Sir Hywel Evans, chairman of the Welsh Arts Council through which the grant is being made to Swansea City Council who own and run the theatre, said: "This is the largest sum ever awarded by the council for a theatre development and reflects the importance which we attach to responding to Swansea's initiative in the arts".



All quiet on the western line: Mr Arthur Nayler and his wife, Unna, who live in the closed station at Little Kimble, on the still used London-Aylesbury route, enjoying the peace of a strike.

Miles of woodlands go quietly for sale

By Hugh Clayton, Environment Correspondent

More than a hundred woodlands, with a combined area of almost 20 square miles, have quietly been put up for sale since the Government began its sale of Forestry Commission land last November. Very few of the woods have been advertised and only seven lots have so far been sold on the open market, though the Government and the commission refuse to name prices and buyers.

The seven include almost four square miles of Loch Moss, forest with commercial peat extraction, in Dumfries

and Galloway. That was bought by a single purchaser and represents the Government's most successful effort so far at raising money by selling state forest land.

The sale of the two-square-mile Stang Forest, in co Durham, collapsed last year after the Forestry Commission believed that it had been concluded. The commission hopes that it will succeed in selling the property this year.

The campaign to raise £10m a year by selling woods owned by the commission has been condemned by the

Labour movement as proceeding for monetarist reasons without heed to the needs of the forestry industry. Ministers see it as a means of reducing the burden of state forestry on public funds.

More than 20 woodlands, with a combined area of about five square miles, have been sold back to the private landowners from whom the commission bought them. Some of these lots have not been advertised on the open market.

The commission has agreed

not to sell woods of exceptional scenic and scientific interest without first consulting government and voluntary conservation bodies. But a transfer of woodland to a state body such as the Nature Conservancy Council would not raise money, while some regional naturalists' societies cannot afford to buy.

Nevertheless, the National Trust has bought more than 200 acres of woodland in Somerset from the commission, to prevent it from being used by an investor purely as a source of commercial timber.

Over-busy pub sells pasties at its peril

From Our Correspondent
Exeter

The landlord of the Royal Oak at Meavy on Dartmoor has been told to cut his trade because he is too successful. Exeter Parish Council, which owns the inn, has given Mr John Shortridge a last measure for reducing business before his lease can be renewed, because some local people have complained about the level of activity.

Mr Shortridge said: "It is silly. The council are cutting their own throats because the more cash we take over the bar the more rent is paid to them."

The Royal Oak is no exception to other pubs. We have very quiet times, especially during the winter. We have six hectic weeks in the summer but I would not call this over-successful. It is just one of two residents complaints.

The Parish Council's recommendations are: to serve west Country pasties only between May and October; to stop Mr Des Shortridge from putting here food on sale to customers; to ban the landlord from playing instruments other than piano; to stop people sitting outside the public house by removing the chairs; and to force customers to drink only inside the building.

Mr Shortridge said: "I have told the council in no uncertain terms that I will not run the pub's trade down."

Mr Nicholas Waterhouse, one of the parish councillors, said: "The proposals are long-term measures designed to reduce the present gross over-trading at the inn."

The James in Horbling, Lincolnshire, are going down because they are being offset by most of the annual rental from the Plough Inn, which is owned by the parish council. It will serve the 420 population an average of £6 a head. (Our Peterborough Correspondent writes).

Research council cuts: 1

Unseen effect of cash pruning

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

More than a year ago Mrs Margaret Thatcher proudly told an all-party parliamentary and scientific committee that the Government's spending on research was "protected" from the round of public spending cuts. Today, research workers in universities say subsequent actions suggest she has reneged on that commitment.

The issue is rapidly coming to a head in the wake of cutbacks made by the Universities Grant Committee. Those cuts have mostly been discussed in terms of the impact on the numbers of students and academic staff. The effect the cuts have in undermining research has received less attention.

Research in universities is only 14 per cent of the total money spent by the Government on research. More than £3,500m of government money was divided between research on defence (£200m); to promote industrial growth (£118m); on health (£50m); and on other activities (£1,600m). The amount devoted directly to pure research in universities was about £200m last year. The money comes from the £478m allocated through Parliament as the Science Vote. That is shared between five research councils: the Science and Engineering Research Council, Natural Environment Research Council, Medical Research Council, Agricultural Research Council and the Social Sciences Research Council.

There are marked differences in the way each council is suffering from the economic squeeze. The science and engineering, natural environment and medical research councils are vulnerable for special reason, even though their budget allocations have at least been held static. The grants those organizations award to university scientists are only part of the research story. Academic research in Britain relies on a unique scheme known as the dual support system.

Under that arrangement, universities are expected to provide from general funds, coming from the University Grants Committee, an equipment grant for the "floor" of research facilities. That means, literally, the floor space and essential laboratory apparatus needed. The research councils provide the money for specific projects.

Between the two academic bodies should have the conditions to teach well and conduct first class research. But before the cuts, the

equipment grant had fallen below the figure needed by university departments for servicing their apparatus such as electron microscopes and computers.

Expressing the anxiety of academic research workers, Sir Andrew Huxley, president of the Royal Society, says the dual support system, had been reduced to a shadow. It was in danger of being obliterated by the cuts in university finance, he claimed.

Sir Andrew recognised that there was scope for rationalization within universities, and that the University Grants Committee's recommendations to individual universities on cuts were to encourage more efficient use of resources. However, had the grants committee gone further, taking the decisions where to make cuts out of the hands of the universities, there would have been protests at the infringement of the universities' independence, Sir Andrew argued.

Sir Andrew said there was a danger to scientific research in that raising departmental grants was an easy way of avoiding, or reducing the number of, compulsory terminations of employment.

Tomorrow: Medical research

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Seamen's health survey

A large-scale study of the health of crews working on merchant ships has been commissioned by British shipowners in cooperation with seafarers' unions (Our Labour Editor writes). The survey, to be carried out by the TUC Centenary Institute of Occupational Health, has been prompted by statistics suggesting that seafarers may be more vulnerable to illness and early death than people in many other occupations.

About one in 50 of Britain's 60,000 merchant seamen and officers will be asked to fill in a questionnaire and undergo a physical examination. The results will be compared with known statistics for the general population.

Pensioners are led to safety

More than 50 pensioners were led to safety when fire broke out at an old people's home in Halesowen, Birmingham, yesterday. No one was hurt, but some people had to spend the rest of the night on makeshift mattresses as firemen damped down the roof blaze, believed to have been caused by a fault in the heating system. The home was not badly damaged.

Council house subsidies fall as rents increase

By David Walker

Housing figures published today show that the Government's policy of cutting general subsidies for council housing and moving to special rebates for poorer tenants.

Overall subsidies to council housing in England and Wales have fallen by nearly a third, measured in cash, between 1980-81 and 1981-82. Council rents have increased during the same period by nearly a half.

According to calculations by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, a professional body on which the Government often relies for estimates of local spending, public spending on rent rebates to council tenants could have increased by as much as four-fifths.

The calculations are complex because some rebates are paid by the Department of the Environment, some from the rates and some from the social security system administered by the Department of Health and Social Security.

Those changes in the balance between general subsidies and special rebates are in line with the Housing Act, 1980, and will probably continue through 1982-83. Council rents are due to rise by at least £2.50 a week on average on April 1.

Council house rents still only cover on average two-thirds of the full cost of public spending on each dwelling. The table shows the relationship during 1981-82

	Grant (£)	Rebate (£)	Total (£)
London	12.67	10.83	30.65
GLC	14.65	11.36	61.41
Metros	10.26	5.31	14.97
Non-metros	11.36	5.97	15.33
districts			
(England)			
All England	11.48	8.44	18.36
and Wales			

of the gross amount received by councils in rent and the cost of management and maintenance. Total cost includes interest charges on loans which average £11.38 a week for each council dwelling in England and Wales.

Some local authorities cushion their tenants against the impact of the Government's policy of high rents. Chartered Institute's latest figures show that the London boroughs increased their rates subsidy to rents by 10 per cent between 1980-81 and 1981-82. Expenditure pay for only about 1 per cent of total housing spending by councils in the English shires; but in London 20 per cent of total costs come from the rates.

There are now 5,200,000 dwellings in local authority ownership in England and Wales, plus another 100,000 owned by the new town corporations. The average cost to councils of providing a dwelling in 1981-82 is £18.36 a week, of which £11.48 comes from the rent paid by tenants.

Housing Revenue Account Statistics 1981-82, estimated. CIPFA, 1 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HS, £12.

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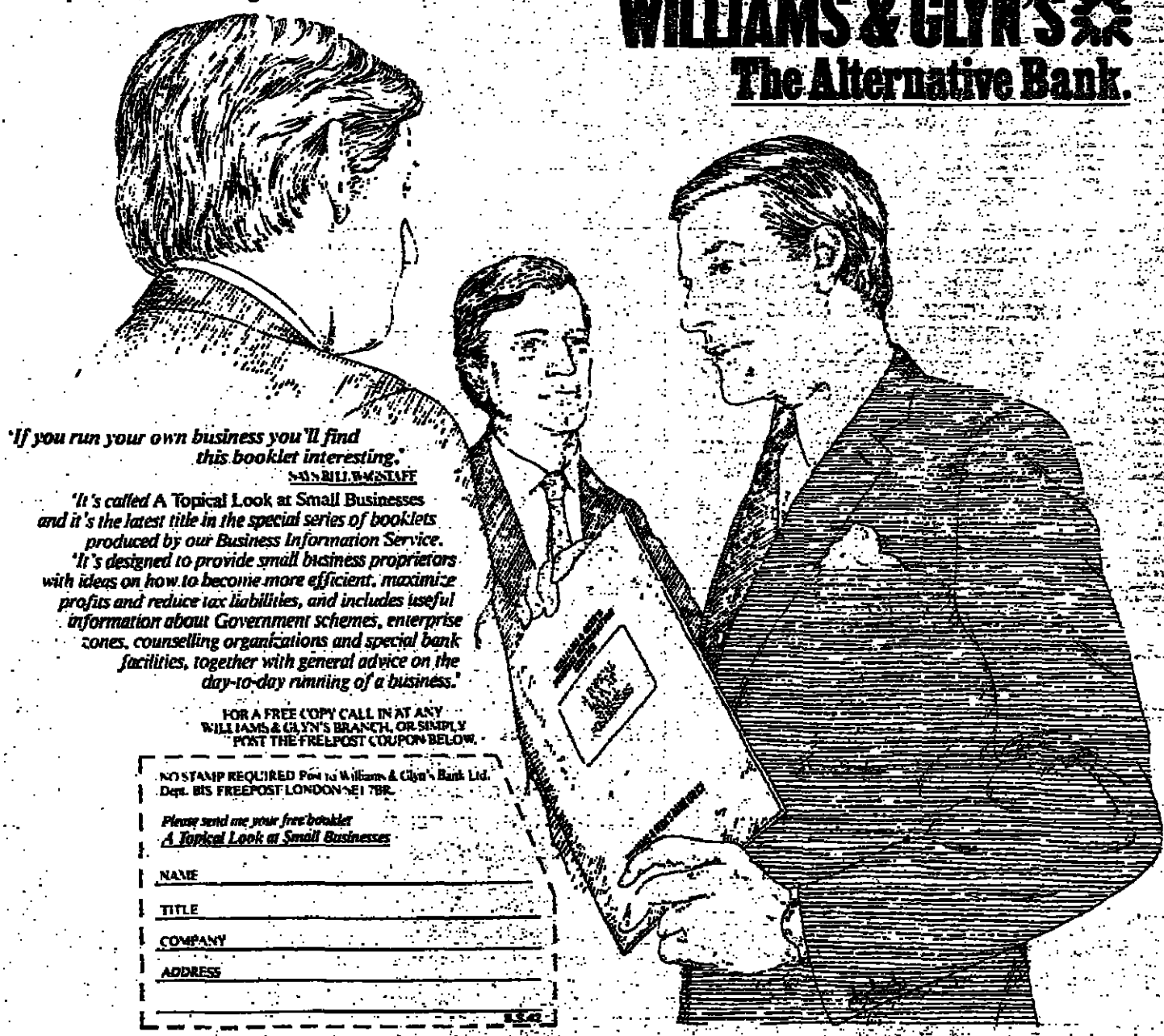
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Deng's departure raises fears for China's future

From David Bonavia, Peking, Feb 7

The disclosure that Mr Deng Xiaoping will no longer take an active role in the day-to-day administration of China has caused surprise and even shock among observers of Chinese affairs and raised grave concern about the country's future.

Mr Deng, the leading vice-chairman of the Communist Party, has been in control of party and government affairs since his political rehabilitation in 1973 apart from a one-year period of disgrace during and after the final ascendancy of the leftist "Gang of Four" led by Jiang Qing, widow of Mao Tse-tung.

Mr Wan Li, a Deputy Prime Minister, considered close to Mr Deng, told a delegation from Reuters news agency that he was in southern China, resting. However, Foreign Ministry officials vehemently deny reports that he was in poor health.

Mr Deng's personal prestige, experience and authority are considered to have been the crucial factor in maintaining national unity in recent years, in the face of some highly divisive issues.

Mr Deng's last known statement on the question of his retirement was that he would remain in office until 1985 then seek an advisory role. There is no explanation as to why he should have decided to limit his own functions three years ahead of time.

His chief protégés — Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, and Mr Hu Yaobang, the party chairman, though experienced administrators, have nothing approaching his record as a revolutionary, military commander, statesman and eventually opponent of Mao.

Last year, together with several other leaders, Mr Deng resigned his post of Deputy Prime Minister, but this was seen as a measure of his real strength rather than as any erosion of it. The latest change in his status inevitably awakens suspicions that he has been forced out of effective office by concerted opposition to his policies. If so, the prognosis for China's future is grave.

Of late, opposition to Mr Deng's liberalizing policies has been growing among the senior armed forces commanders and the bureaucratic machine of the Government and Communist Party. But it was thought he would reduce or neutralize such opposition this year by a determined purge of the party and by conciliatory measures towards the military.

Many of the senior armed forces commanders have resented his moves to discredit Mao's policies during the last two decades of his life. The Army has also objected to Mr Deng's liberalization of rural life and

Battle lines drawn for Madrid talks

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Feb 7

The foreign ministers of at least 20 countries began gathering here today for a verbal battle — with the Soviet and Polish Governments as the principal targets — that could turn the hundredth session of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe into the final session.

The first plenary session after a winter recess will be presided over on Tuesday by Jozef Wieszac, the Polish Deputy Foreign Minister, who is said to have issued a warning before leaving Warsaw that his country "will not take part in the Madrid conference if it is relegated to the role of defendant."

The Polish and Soviet Governments are expected to be accused by Western nations of violating the 1975 Helsinki agreements, which it is the task of the present conference to review and expand.

The fact that most of the 35 participating countries will be represented by their foreign ministers, rather than by normal heads of delegation, suggests the importance that their governments attach to the meeting at this time, after 15 months of debate with little progress.

The positions of the various Western delegations range from the tough stance of Mr Alexander Haig, the United States Secretary of State, who recently informed NATO allies that he favours suspending the conference until next autumn as a sign of protest over Poland, to the more conciliatory attitude of Mr Leo Tindemans, the Belgian Foreign Minister, who advocates a recess as a period of reflection, but only after two or three weeks' more discussion in Madrid.

The possibility exists of next Tuesday's debate ending in a total breakdown of the conference. Since a severe confrontation between East and West could make it impossible to achieve the consensus needed to continue the meeting. Most observers of the conference, however, consider this unlikely as both East and West are interested in continuing the Helsinki process, even if for different reasons.

The Soviet Union needs it to win approval to bring all 35 nations together for a disamputation conference, and the West needs it to bring pressure on the signatories.

Glemp urges voice for Solidarity

Rome, Feb 7. — Archbishop Jozef Glemp, the Roman Catholic primate of Poland, said today that Solidarity should be included in efforts to achieve reconciliation in his country.

Archbishop Glemp, in Rome for his first meeting with the Pope since martial law was declared in Poland, preached to the Polish community in the ancient church of St Stanislaus. "Rage is the worst disease now afflicting our homeland," he said. "The Church is bent on its knees in front of a suffering society... and recommends love as the only medicine."

He added: "We must find an accord so that Poland again becomes the homeland of all Poles."

During the Mass, the congregation sang hymns and popular Polish songs and Archbishop Glemp asked them to pray for interned members of Solidarity and their families. Solidarity

should have a place alongside the Church in negotiations with the military rulers in Warsaw, he said.

Since the proclamation of martial law the Archbishop has been involved in mediation efforts between Poland's military rulers and Mr Lech Walesa, the detained Solidarity leader.

Appealing for tolerance, the Archbishop said: "Poland must not become an arena for bloody confrontations." But he made no reference to his meetings with the Pope, who today refrained from making any comments on the Polish crisis at his traditional Sunday blessing. — Reuter.

Warsaw: The Polish Communist Party said today it was finding it hard to woo back workers and intellectuals who deserted it during the confrontation with Solidarity. (Reuter reports.) Mr Włodzimierz Mokrzyński, secretary of the party's Central Committee, reported that membership had dropped by 500,000 to 2.6 million since last July.

The loss was due to resignations and a purge of inefficient and discredited members, he told the official PAP news agency.

The party, thrust into the background by martial law, is in the midst of a drive to win back disillusioned members and rebuild public credibility. The official said resistance to its efforts to reassert itself was strongest in factories, where Solidarity had powerful support, and among intellectuals.

The party was still being purged at all levels but the pace of resignations had not increased since the military take-over in December. Intellectuals and workers who left to join Solidarity should be encouraged to return but no leniency should be shown to enemies of Marxism, Mr Mokrzyński added.



Mubarak sees role for Europe

By Edward Mortimer

"My name is Hosni Mubarak." These were not the first but the last words of the Egyptian President's short press conference at London airport yesterday morning. They were perhaps also the most significant, coming as they did in reply to the question, "In what way do you have any different policy from your predecessor, if any?"

The answer, delivered with a broad grin, was — like most of those that preceded it — brilliantly evasive. Taken literally, it could mean that nothing in Egypt has changed except the name of the man at the top. But no one in the room took it like that. Here, we all felt, was a president who would certainly not commit the lapse of taste of criticizing his murdered predecessor, but who was very definitely his own man and happy to be seen as such.

Mr Mubarak had had lunch with Mrs Thatcher at Chequers on Saturday. He had called in Britain on his way home from Washington, and was leaving for Bonn, to meet Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor. (On the outward journey he had stopped in Rome and Paris.)

The Europeans, he said, had a very strong role to play in achieving a comprehensive peace in the Middle East, through their influence on the United States and on Israel.

Did he mean we should put pressure on those countries? "I'm not speaking at all about pressures. Understanding, discussing this with their friends the Israelis, and also with the United States — it would be a good support to the comprehensive settlement."

Mr Mubarak repeated his view, already voiced in Washington, that the Americans should start a dialogue with the Palestinians. Did he see the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinians? "It was so registered according to the Rabat summit, but still there are differences between them all." The Americans should start a dialogue with whichever Palestinians were moderate enough to be willing to hold one.

Mr Mubarak was also asked whether he could envisage any action by Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, that would force him to interrupt the peace process. He replied by emphasizing that withdrawal from Sinai was "a commitment on the Israeli side" and that he was "sure whenever they sign a document they respect it".

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Terrorist suffer big setback

Rome. — Italian anti-terrorist police have arrested more than 150 guerrilla suspects and dismantled 25 of their bases since the liberation 11 days ago of General James Dozier, Interior Ministry sources said.

General Dozier was rescued after 42 days in captivity. The Washington Post reported that six men sent by the Pentagon to serve as liaison between Italian and American officials were members of the elite counter-terrorist joint task force. It was created last year to replace the special army unit which failed to liberate the American hostages from Iran in 1980.

Missile gingerly reclaimed

Schranberg, West Germany. — American explosives experts carefully dismantled the concrete floor of a Black Forest barn in an attempt to recover a live Sidewinder missile which fell off a jet fighter during combat drill.

The 190lb missile, which carries about 9lb of TNT, plunged through the roof of the barn, and drove through about 15ft of densely packed hay before embedding itself 3ft into the concrete and sawdust floor, an Air Force spokesman said. The owner of the barn, Herr Eugen Seckinger, aged 79, and his wife, were taken to safety after the missile was discovered. Police said that Herr Seckinger, being hard of hearing, knew nothing of the missile until he saw a large hole in the barn roof.

Moses inspires a president

Washington. — When President Reagan celebrated his seventy-first birthday here with a few close friends, he became the oldest man ever to occupy the White House. Last week, at a prayer-luncheon, he joked about his age.

He said: "This increase of numbers doesn't bother me at all because I recall that Moses was 80 when God commissioned him for public service, and he lived to be 120. And Abraham and his wife, Sarah, were 90 when they did something very amazing." They had a son, Isaac. Sarah had been thought to be sterile.

Surgeons cut supply route

Paris. — A 22-year-old Briton was recovering here from an operation during which surgeons removed more than 3 lb of cocaine from his stomach, reliable sources said.

Th man, who lives in London, was intercepted when he arrived on a flight from Colombia. He is said to have admitted having swallowed 70 tablets of cocaine, each 40 grams in condoms.

Romanian food prices to rise

Vienna. — Romania is raising food prices but will compensate low wage earners for the additional expense, Agerpres, the official news agency, said.

Western sources said that some prices, including those of bread, sugar, flour and oil, had remained unchanged for about 30 years. Romania is negotiating with the International Monetary Fund for the second part of a \$1,480m loan (about £200m) granted last June.

Lenin tomb closes

Moscow. — The Kremlin has announced that Lenin's mausoleum in Red Square, Moscow, is too close for two months — usually an indication that restorative work will be carried out on the embalmed body of the revolutionary leader who died in 1924. The mausoleum will be shut from February 15 to April 15, according to Pravda.

Cell death starts biggest outcry since Biko

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg, Feb 7

South African opposition politicians, backed by trade unionists and leading businessmen, have called for a full official inquiry into the death of Dr Neil Aggett, the 28-year-old trade union leader found hanging in his cell at security police headquarters in Johannesburg.

The police claim Dr Aggett hanged himself but his death has set off a political and legal storm about the conditions in which prisoners are held for interrogation without trial for months under South Africa's rigorous and all-embracing security laws.

His death has already caused the biggest outcry since that of the Black consciousness leader Steve Biko, who died in 1977 from injuries sustained at security police offices in Port Elizabeth.

The fullest statement from the authorities on Dr Aggett's death was given yesterday by Lieutenant-General Johann Coetzee, the Deputy Commissioner of Police and chief of security branch, who said Dr Aggett was found hanging from an iron grille behind his cell door by a piece of clothing wound round his neck.

Lieutenant-General Coetzee claimed that Dr Aggett had been visited by a police sergeant every half hour last Thursday night and Friday morning. "When he visited him at 1 am on Friday, the sergeant unlocked the door. Behind the door there is a grille to prevent attacks on cell staff."

The sergeant saw Dr Aggett lying on his bed and apparently in good health. However, when he returned at 1.30 am and unlocked the door, he found Dr Aggett dead, hanging from the grille.

Lieutenant-General Coetzee also disclosed that Dr Aggett had left a unfinished statement.

Dr Aggett was being held under section 6 of the Terrorism Act, under which a suspect can be held indefinitely in solitary confinement without trial. Professor John Dugard, the director of the Centre of Applied Legal Studies at the University of Witwatersrand, today called for a formal investigation into mounting evidence that "Section 6 produces an environment of intimidation tantamount to torture."

Pyke blames man with grudge for his ordeal

Schiphol, Holland, Feb 7

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman freed by Iran, has said that false accusations by a would-be employee with a grudge led to his 518-day ordeal in a Tehran jail. He made unpleasant accusations that he was a spy. I am not a spy," Mr Pyke said on arrival in the Netherlands.

Mr Pyke, who managed an Iranian-Dutch firm operating helicopters for the oil industry, was arrested at Tehran airport as he was about to leave Iran in August, 1980. He was released from jail 10 days ago.

Yesterday he reacted angrily to a barrage of questions from reporters as he and his smiling Dutch-born wife Tilleke were taken by Dutch colleagues and airport officials to a reunion at the airport with friends. "I've been in prison for a year and a half. Leave me alone," he shouted at journalists.

After the reunion he apologized to the press and, walking to a news conference surrounded by Dutch policemen, said: "The last guys I was with like this had green jackets, berets and machine guns."

Looking drawn but very happy, Mr Pyke said that after investigations a religious judge said he had no case to answer. He was

Israelis dismiss UN vote

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Feb 7

Israel today derisively dismissed Friday's United Nations call for its diplomatic, economic and military isolation. A Cabinet statement said that Israel did not need moral preaching about peace from the Arab states and the Soviet Union. The 21 countries which opposed the resolution, including all of Western Europe except Greece, were praised as "democratic and free" in contrast to the communist members and the Islamic nations of Asia, Africa and the Arab world which made up the majority.

The statement said that the General Assembly's resolution was "null and void", but some analysts said that remained to be seen. The newspaper, *Maariv*, noted in a leading article that a small number of states which supported the resolution (Burma, Cyprus, Greece, Nepal and Peru) maintained diplomatic ties with Israel. A larger number maintained trade relations.

Commentators agreed that there was no danger of expulsion from the United Nations.

The United States appears to be backing away from its earlier threats against the United Nations. (Our New York Correspondent writes.)

Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the American representative, called the resolution "obnoxious" and "filled with ominous portent".

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BL Fighting back

Washington's 'three Bs' prepare for EEC battle

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 7

A Belgian, a West German and a Dane descend on Washington tomorrow for a study exchange of words with three American ministers who are disrespectfully referred to in Brussels as "The three Bs".

According to Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, the meeting should be "an elegant dialogue" about the trading difficulties that exist between Europe and the United States. According to a very senior and angry EEC official last week, "there will be a good deal of blood on the floor".

What threatens to turn the elegant dialogue into a blood-drenched European steel producers' allegedly dumping their heavily subsidized produce on the American market. This, the writs claim, is causing material damage to the domestic industry.

Wielding a thick dossier of statistics to prove Europe's innocence, the Belgian Industry Commissioner, Viscount Bienne Davignon, and the West German External Relations Commissioner, Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, will take on two of the "Bs", Mr Mulcahy and Mr Dunsford, Secretary of the Commerce Department, and Mr William Brock, Trade Representative.

Locked in single combat and hurling frozen chicken figures and maize gluten feed subsidies at each other, will be the Danish Agriculture Commissioner, Mr Poul Dalsgaard and Mr John Block, Secretary of State for Agriculture.

The one thing certain to be proven by the encounter is the truth of Bernard Shaw's adage that there are lies, damn lies and statistics. With unemployment growing and the farming lobbies growing more vociferous on both sides of the Atlantic, the partners in Mr Haig's "elegant dialogue" will be seeking to prove that they have every right to exploit each other's markets and to dump if necessary.

In the words of the angry Commission official last week: "There is no rule about dumping. If you dump it is a fact of life. No one can complain if someone dumps." But the consequence of that is the growth of the mood of protectionism and not only in the United States. It is starting to sweep through Europe to such an extent that the very concept of the words "Common

Market" is becoming questionable.

If the three commissioners, presumably bloodied but unbowed, can overcome their jet lag in time, they will be taking part in the weekly commission meeting on Wednesday. There they will be devoting a good deal of their time to drafting a plan for narrowing the \$7,800m trade gap between the EEC and Japan. For as competition grows fiercer, Europe finds itself fighting its trading partners on all fronts. Only with the EFTA countries and the poorer lands round the Mediterranean does the EEC have a trade surplus. All other producers, including the Soviet bloc, Third World countries and, of course, the oil exporters, have a net trading deficit with the EEC.

This unpleasant economic fact of life is causing the individual EEC nations to turn on one another in nationalistic efforts to save their own industries.

This is most obvious in France where the new Socialist Government, following a path tentatively blazed by the previous administration, is setting out to "reconquer the internal market". The weapons for reconquest have yet to be forged. But there can be little doubt they will involve national aids tantamount to subsidy, which arguably run counter to the Treaty of Rome ideals.

But France, which opens and shuts its frontiers to Italian wine in wilful contradiction of the treaty, is far

from being the only EEC member to devise trade barriers against its supposed partners. Every country is currently being prosecuted by the European Court for the practice and the signs are that the habit is growing, despite earnest Commission efforts to reverse the trend.

Some trade barriers are ingenious. Belgian shops can only sell margarine in cubic containers — and that keeps out West German competitors. Irish shops can only sell certain kinds of furniture with instructions in Gaelic — and that keeps out most people. West German wool cannot be sold in the traditional European standard size of 40 grammes. All chickens imported into Britain have to be free of vaccination — and that keeps out all but Irish birds. All soft drinks in Denmark have to be sold in returnable bottles — and that takes the fizz out of competitors' profits. The list of measures is as varied as the ingenuity of 10 member states can concoct.

France is now pressing for a range of unspecified measures to protect the European market from outside pressures. It is not winning any support in the declared statements of other European leaders, but increasingly the gap is widening between the public political necessity of remaining firm to the principle of free trade and the private economy necessity of protecting internal markets.

There is, however, one very damaging side effect of internal EEC protectionism, which is already causing real concern within the Commission. This is the way in which American investment vital to the European economy is being frightened away by these untreatable barriers. American companies chose to put money into the EEC during the 60s and 70s because this meant they had a large common market. Now that "Buy French" or "Think British" campaigns are taking hold, potential American investors are looking elsewhere to place their dollars.

The European Commission is preparing for a long, hard trade war ahead on all fronts. But while it sends champions off to the United States to fight for steel and concocts plans to keep out the Japanese, its biggest battle looks likely to be against member states.



Mrs Tricia Crocker, the widow of the British yachtman murdered in the Caribbean, arriving at Heathrow. Mrs Crocker flew in from Barbados with her husband's body.

Turkish military tighten restrictions on press

Ankara, Feb 7.—Turkey's military rulers announced further restrictions on the press yesterday and banned non-government bodies from inviting or meeting foreign delegations.

The military statement barred the Turkish press from quoting foreign news reports critical of Turkey. It ordered societies, foundations, trade unions, and other bodies to seek the permission of the martial law authorities before inviting foreign delegations.

Permission must also be sought for meetings with any foreign delegation arriving in Turkey uninvited, the statement said. The measures reflect a deterioration in relations between Turkey and the West after criticism of Turkey's military rule last week by the Council of Europe.

Party closes ranks behind Marchais

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Feb 7

The twenty-fourth Congress of the French Communist Party, which ended today, predictably produced no surprises, though it came soon after the party's most resounding electoral defeat since the Second World War.

There was hardly a whisper during the five-day marathon of speeches of the serious crisis which grips the party, the sharp decline in popular support and the mounting financial difficulties.

Mr Georges Marchais, the architect of this disaster, whose leadership seemed under threat after last June's elections, was triumphantly re-elected as secretary-general for another three-year term.

Only 12 new members were elected to the party's 145 — strong Central Committee. But M Georges Seguy, the secretary-general of the Communist-dominated CGT, trade union, left it at his own request. He is also to give up his post as leader of the trade union organization by next June, for health reasons.

The façade of unanimity was successfully maintained at the congress. The final motion was carried by 2,004 votes out of 2,006 delegates, with two abstentions. "The immense majority of Communists have come out in favour of the strategy proposed," Mr Guy Hermier, a

rising member of the Politburo, declared.

That strategy is twofold: the party intends to be both a party of combat and a party of government, as M Marchais has emphasized. It has four ministers in the Mitterrand coalition Government. One of them, M Charles Fiterman, was given a standing ovation and is seen as the natural successor to the secretary-generalship.

While determined to remain in the Government, the party intends to preserve its militant image, by encouraging "the necessary intervention of the workers" in favour of change, and against the forces of reaction, as M Marchais emphasized in his closing speech today. That is where the CGT comes in, notably in fomenting unrest over the cuts in the working week.

The party's ambivalent attitude is also apparent in M Marchais' endorsement of the Socialist Government's policy and in his reassertion of his party's pro-Moscow line.

The great debate which has been going on for months in the party at grass-roots level about the breach with the Socialists and the violently anti-socialists line in the four years leading up to the presidential elections, followed by the sudden about-face after them, was hardly mentioned during the congress.

Moi threatens to throw out Kenyan Asians

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Feb 7

A bitter attack on Asian businessmen here by President Daniel Arap Moi has shocked and dismayed many of the 80,000 Asians living in Kenya.

President Moi yesterday accused Asians of hoarding, smuggling, and said any Asian doing this would be deported, even if he were a Kenyan citizen. The President was speaking to a delegation from Embu, 120 miles from here, which called on him at State House in Nairobi.

Attacking corruption, he said: "Asians in this country are ruining the economy by smuggling currency out of the country and even hoarding essential goods and selling them through the back door."

"From now on anybody

found hoarding or smuggling will be punished severely. If he is an Asian he will be deported immediately, regardless of whether he is a citizen or not."

There is no apparent reason for the launching of such attacks at this time, but Kenya is undergoing severe economic problems and is suffering shortages of many imported goods.

President Moi appeared to express dissatisfaction with the conduct of some African traders who are used as a front by Asian businessmen. But it is the suggestion that Asians who hold Kenyan citizenship could be deported — and presumably stripped of their citizenship — that has shocked Asians here.

Belgium faced by general strike

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 7

Much of Belgium will be paralysed for 24 hours from midnight by a general strike called in protest at government austerity measures, which have yet to be announced officially.

There will be no trains, law courts, newspapers, buses, post office and telephone services, of creches. A few schools may operate in defiance of picket lines. Hospitals, radio and television, pharmacies and fire services will run the barest of services. Most of industry is expected to be at a standstill.

The strike has been called by the socialist FGVB union, which is strongest in French-speaking Wallonia, the area which has been hardest hit by Belgium's escalating economic difficulties. In Wallonia the Christian CSC union is also expected to lend its considerable backing to the industrial action. Even in Flanders, where support for the coalition Government is strongest, widespread action looks likely.

The reason for the protest action was made clear last night in a television interview with Mr Wilfried Martens, the Prime Minister. He said he would be using the special powers his Government has just been given to hold down any increase in the national wage bill this year to 3 per cent. Restoring the economy was not an easy task and would involve sacrifices by everyone, he said. "We must work harder and harder."

Mr Martens promised that before introducing new economic measures there would be "real, but brief" consultation with the unions. Lack of agreement would not stop the Government from acting. Only the most impoverished would not have to make sacrifices.

Imposing these sacrifices, which will also entail redundancies in ailing industries, the coalition Government. In particular, the French-speaking Socialist Christian Party (PSC), which is closely linked with the Christian trade union movement, finds itself in difficulties in Wallonia.

This was underlined yesterday by the near unanimous decision of the Christian workers movement meeting in Namur to form a new political movement. The meeting felt that in supporting the government the PSC was drawing away from the grass roots union support

お母さんへ TO ALL MOTHERS

Let's not send our irreplaceable children to the battlefield.
Now is the time for all mothers of the world to unite
in a drive against military armaments.

Recently, many countries of the world have moved to increase their armaments rather than moving toward disarmament.

This trend, should it continue unchecked, will make it difficult to avoid a third world war which may spell the destruction of mankind. I am deeply worried by this possibility.

After World War II, I was incarcerated for 3 years and 14 days as a "Class A" war crime suspect in Sugamo Prison in Tokyo. During my imprisonment, some 35 years ago, I submitted a plea to General Douglas MacArthur, Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, as well as to U.S. President Harry Truman. In it, I revealed my willingness to sacrifice my own life if necessary in order to eradicate war and save mankind from its horrors.

From that time on, I have practiced the principles of the universal brotherhood of mankind in the belief that "the world is one family, all people are brothers and sisters." Today I continue to call for total disarmament, and for the creation of a lasting peace which transcends politics, economics, philosophies, religious beliefs, race and national boundaries.

Wars produce a thousand evils, and no good. To end them and to establish a lasting peace requires more than a mere reduction of nuclear warheads or conventional weapons. An absolute prerequisite for permanent peace is total disarmament. Countries opposed to complete disarmament are enemies of peace. And as these countries pose a threat to all mankind, other nations of the world must join in solidarity to blockade them economically. If this can be done, these countries will be forced to end their intransigence, no matter how powerful they may be.

Today, the world's annual military expenditures exceed \$550 billion. If total disarmament is achieved, this money can be reallocated to further the welfare of

mankind. Precious lives will not be lost, and natural resources will not be wasted.

With these things in mind, I am appealing to the mothers of the world to join forces and establish "Mothers for Peace" organizations dedicated to ending war and to furthering the movement to abolish military armaments.

There is no woman, regardless of her nationality, who bears and raises her children so that they may die on the battlefield. Rather, they carry their children, give birth to them, and would sacrifice themselves to protect them from harm.

I appeal to all mothers from the bottom of my heart to support and cooperate with this initiative to abolish all armaments which might otherwise take the lives of their children in wars.

If you agree with these sentiments, regardless of whether you're a woman or a man, I'd like to hear your opinion concerning this problem, which concerns us all. Please send me a postcard or letter, and please include your name, address, occupation and age.



佐々木良一

Ryoichi Sasakawa
(82 years of age)

President
World Society for the Memorialization
of War Victims

Office of the Committee of Mothers for Peace
Blue Sea and Green Land Foundation
P.O. Box 16, Fukagawa Post Office
Tokyo 135-91, Japan.

Respect your parents and elderly people. Take care of ill people.

THE ARTS

Television

Breaking uneven

Melvin Bragg appeared briefly on the South Bank Show last night to hand over to Germaine Greer. I began by thinking that was uncommonly handsome of him but, before the end, concluded it was a downright rash, in figure he might reflect where good intentions can lead.

Miss Greer was talking about the Art of the Ad, specifically the television commercial, not those which punctuate her performance — and on this occasion the commercial breaks seemed less intrusive — but television advertising in general and what she considers the best particular.

Miss Greer's father, she informed us at the outset, was a seller of advertising space, an occupation that passes through periods of great travail, and it may be that she was unconsciously reacting to a well-provided cushioned life, giving her bottom without due care and attention.

Whatever the motivation, she talked a lot of rot. British advertising has been technically good for many years and even had advertisements, those which grab us by the back of the neck and inform us we could do without, can be technically good while being aesthetically, socially and psychologically morose.

A lot of money is spent on making them and Miss Greer, in her Alice in Wonderland role, has discovered that a 30-second commercial can equal or exceed the cost of a half-hour programme. The point about commercials is that, no matter how expensive they are, or how sophisticated visually, they are intrusive, and it is true that they are less welcome if they are clever, or humorous, or both. But if, for instance, you were watching *Bridehead* you would not (unless you were Miss Greer) jump up and say "Whoopee" when you saw the "End of Part One" come up to herald the commercials.

Miss Greer took no account of this, nor did she appear aware that good commercials — those that entertain as well as sell — are dependent not only on the agency but on the client who is selling the product and the market that product is aimed at.

I had no quarrel with her choice of advertisements — all were visually excellent — just with her approach and general naivete. She took us through her choices like a newly-qualified remedial teacher.

She explained every facet of the Cinzano Bianco commercial — the one in which Leonard Rossiter tips his drink over Joan Collins; announced that she could watch the Fiat Strada commercial — "hand-made by Robots" — every day; thought it sheer genius to have married Italian music to an Italian car (maybe Wagner had the wrong beat); and told the director Hugh Hudson how clever he had been to get the sound of nuts falling in one of his commercials. He explained it had just happened.

It was like that — all gush and garbage. "I allowed myself to be misled," she said before taking to Lester Krokender, a director and, for many years, a superb still photographer. He appeared looking remarkably unneeded in the circumstances, explaining that in advertising no one was asked to make anything other than a positive statement. He, I thought, would have made a greater intellectual contribution to such a programme than Miss Greer.

She ended by telling us that in hard times the best went first and appeared to be urging the formation of some kind of society to protect good advertising, which she put at the improbably high figure of ten per cent.

I could not work up my usual enthusiasm for BBC's *World About Us*, which told the story of the Samurai from Twickenham, a 35-year-old airline pilot who began with judo, got his black belt in Japan, taught himself the language, married a Japanese, became obsessed with the Samurai and was eventually accepted as one of them.

We followed him to Japan to see him become the first foreigner to take part in the *Soma Wild Horse Chase*, a Samurai event that sounded more exciting in prospect than it looked. It needed a Kurosawa to make it work, but the pilot was fine and I would feel safe flying with him. You have to be careful what you say about a Samurai.

Dennis Hackett

Rising joyously to the fleeting occasion



The bold simplicity and directness of Mestrovic's poster for an exhibition; and (right) the delicate rococo side in Cardinaux's poster for "Die Wilden Schwäne"

The Art of the Poster in Austria and Germany 1900-1920

Fischer Fine Art
The Art of Radio Times
Victoria and Albert Museum

Even the finest of fine artists do not always live in ivory towers. Indeed some of them never do. Bread and butter has to be earned and what is there, after all, so demeaning about working to a commission and a deadline? Sometimes the result will be hardly more than adequate. But sometimes the pressures, excitements and disciplines of the situation give a sense of occasion to which the artist, like an actor on first night, may triumphantly rise.

It is quite possible, therefore, to prefer the graphic work of some of the artists included in Fischer Fine Art's show of mainly Jugendstil posters from central and eastern Europe to their easel paintings. Franz von Stuck's paintings can easily be flashy and more than a little vulgar; but his posters for various art shows in Munich during the 1900s pull him together remarkably and reveal a strong sense of vital form under the sexy Symbolist trappings. Peter Behrens, being primarily an architect, industrial designer and graphic artist, we would expect to come up with strong designs perfectly calculated for their form and purpose, but the poster by the Yugoslav sculptor Mestrovic for an art show in Zagreb comes as a very pleasing bonus, with its bold simplicity and directness.

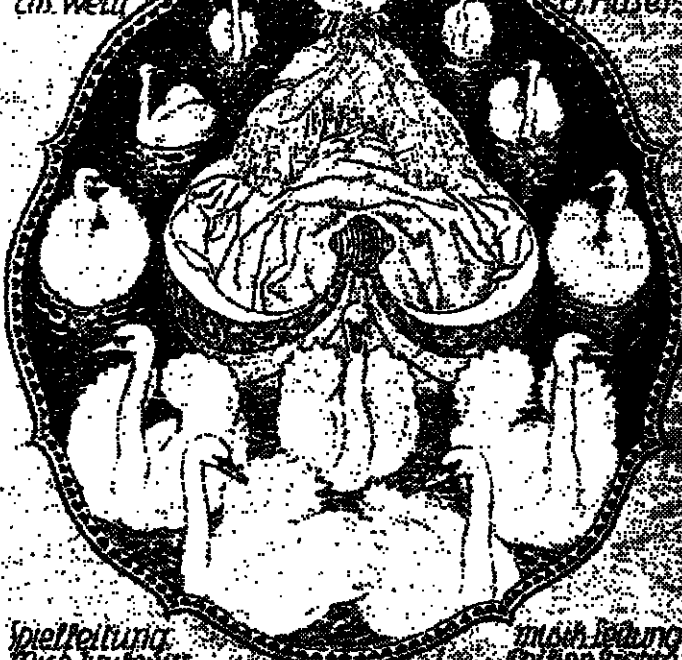
Most of the other artists featured are a lot less well-known. Emil Cardinaux's poster for *Die Wilden Schwäne* reminds us that Middle European Art Nouveau has its delicate rococo side as well as its dark passions. Ludwig Lutz Ahrenberger's elaborate design to advertise a Munich art dealer, combining, rather oddly, some peasant-like formalized cut-outs with a nude lady on an elephant, has a fetching unexpectedness. And Dagobert Peche's poster for a series of concerts in Vienna in 1920, as well as being very decorative, offers an interesting historical sidelight in that of the composers listed Korngold and Schreker are well enough known to be left at a surmise while Arnold Schoenberg has to be specified. Or was that merely a design consideration? It makes one wonder.

For Graphic artists in Britain from the Twenties right up to date, *Radio Times* has been a constant standby and faithful patron. Few have been so grand as to refuse it altogether, especially if, as with Paul Nash, Rex Whistler or McKnight Kauffer, they were brought in for some special job like the cover to a Christmas number. Others, again, contributed some of their best work to the pages of *Radio Times*: in the show of original artwork from six decades at the Victoria and Albert Museum, until February 21, the dominating figure undoubtedly is Eric Fraser. With his extraordinary variety of subject-matter and his crisply unmistakable woodcut style (though few if any of his works actually are woodcuts), he would surely be much grander in critical estimation if he had worked in a less ephemeral form. But he could hardly have given more pleasure; and finally that perhaps is what counts.

John Russell Taylor

DIE WILDEN SCHWANE

Dramatisches Mathenspiel
Text von
Erich Weitz



Aufführung, Donnerstag 22. April 1982
11. Aufführung, Samstag 23. April 1982
im Theater Frankfurt
zu Gunsten der Jugendberufshilfe der Stadt Frankfurt
Ticketpreise: 10,- 15,- 20,- 25,- 30,- 35,- 40,- 45,- 50,- 55,- 60,- 65,- 70,- 75,- 80,- 85,- 90,- 95,- 100,-

Theatre

Devil of a tale

Moon Mill
Arts

The final Unicorn production before the Arts goes dark for much-needed renovation, Moon Mill continues the company's fertile association with the remarkable children's writer Joan Aiken. Like her previous plays, it is a fantasy set in the modern world, reading mythological patterns into everyday events, and striving to transform the Britain of supermarkets and motorways into a magical landscape. But this is the first time that she has gone to the length of involving the Devil in a science-fiction plot.

The piece is built on the idea of mills as ancient sources of power, linked with the mysterious "ley line" trackways criss-crossing the country. The mill in question is threatened with demolition as it stands on the site of a proposed East Anglian airport; the author of this bit of bureaucratic villainy being Lucifer, who sees the mill's lift-off as a means of catapulting himself back into the upper regions.

My feeling that Miss Aiken has overreached herself this time was strengthened by finding that the mill is occupied by a Nobel scientist and his ballerina sister, both busily grinding some ever though there is no village for miles around; that Lucifer's imp turns up in the shape of a schoolboy kidnapped by his divorced father; and that even the local garage man goes in for devil-raising.

The plot is heavily overlaid at the expense of character and dialogue. What remains undimmed is Miss Aiken's authority as a storyteller. The events may criss-cross like tracks on an old map, but she never loses her power to say: this is what happens next. Nicholas Barker's production contains some stridently pushing performances, but it also conveys a strong sense of ceremonial magic calmly supervised by Hazel Penwarden, a white witch to her fingertips.

Irving Wardle

Covent Garden

Thursday could well have seen the return of Franco Zeffirelli to Covent Garden. Plans, kept under distinctly protective wraps, had been made for him to direct and design a new production of Verdi's *La Traviata*, which he wanted to dedicate to the memory of Maria Callas. The financing was only possible through a film, for the cinema rather than television, and the problems of lining up studios, artists and costumes proved impossible in the time available. So a revival of *La Bohème* was whisked in instead.

Covent Garden is still likely to have its new *Traviata* — the designs are all there waiting — but not for the moment. Zeffirelli's film version is probably coming first and the theatre will have to follow the studios.

The present *Bohème* revival has been built round the two principals of that promised *Traviata*: Ileana Cotrubas and Neil Shicoff. And in the event it is Mme Cotrubas who steals the evening away from everyone. Mimi was tailor-made for her. The years do not state this interpretation of girl-woman, part flirt and part waif. Ileana Cotrubas insists that it is Mimi who changes the lives of all those whom she meets: Rodolfo grows up a little; Marcello at the final curtain clasps his Musetta; even Colline has cleaned up a bit.

The voice has the touch of sadness in the timbre that makes the early death come as no surprise, but there is also the strength to ride the orchestra, pushed pretty

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Subsidized sparkle

A Distant Applause
La Bonne Crêpe

The room is too small. When the word gets out, and the success of the theatrical incubator that is part of Carlo Lange's restaurant, La Bonne Crêpe on Maddox Street, WI, becomes known, it will hold the people who would enjoy the results. As a sort of one-man Arts Council, Mr Lange has been subsidizing a songwriter, a playwright and a string of actors. They work hard for their subsidy, sometimes as waiters, but every step of their progress is visible in the shows which play from Wednesday to Saturday evenings.

After something like 20 shows in two and a half years, the house playwright, Paul Prescott, has passed through the first stage of his apprenticeship to find his own voice. In *A Distant Applause* that voice is distinctive: comic, pathetic, musical and, most of all, entertaining. He tells an original story about a comedy team in an end-of-pier

show as they come to the end of a season and perhaps the end of their partnership.

In a sense, he is still springing from a cliché, but his craftsmanship transcends the familiarity of the scene. He sets the story firmly in place. While exploring the personal relationship, he writes backstage banter and conversation which tellingly describes unseen characters, such as the next-door showgirl "aged somewhere between Hayley Mills and death".

The on-stage act is just original enough to show the position of the team, battering life to a routine tinged by the age while carrying the promise of greater things. Mr Prescott takes the part of the straight man, carrying a secret worry on-stage and off, and gets from his opposite number, Roland Viner, a performance of such sparkling vitality and optimism that the whole relationship is absolutely convincing. This time *La Bonne Crêpe* is offering a portion of real theatre, not just a diversion between the pancake and the coffee.

Ned Chaillet

Opera

A Mimi untouched by the years

ill at ease during the first half of the evening. The production, as it now stands, turns the Bohemians into egotists. Failures they may be, as poets and musicians, painters and philosophers, but defeat is never admitted — there is always a rich Englishman to be consoled for the price of a meal. Shicoff, however, overdid the arrogance and during "Che gelida manina" the voice was tight at the top. It lacks tenderness.

Cotrubas relaxed him by the price of a meal. Shicoff, however, overdid the arrogance and during "Che gelida manina" the voice was tight at the top. It lacks tenderness.

The principal newcomer to Covent Garden's *Bohème*, apart from Roberto Cotrubas, is who provided a wealth of colour and yet a certain brusqueness in the pit, was Marilyn Zschau as Musetta. She is lumbered with a lap dog, no wonder the head waiter at the Café Momus wiped his hands down his apron after touching it — and is portrayed as *une femme d'un certain âge*. (Her escort, the unhappy Alcindo, is appropriately younger than usual.) Her brassiness and auburn hair contrast well with Cotrubas's delicate features, but she could do with the Romanian soprano's control of the upper register.

As a hastily arranged revival this *Bohème* has vigour and two outstanding interpretations from Ileana Cotrubas and Thomas Allen. But let that *Traviata* be not too far away.

putting himself back into the upper regions.

My feeling that Miss Aiken has overreached herself this time was strengthened by finding that the mill is occupied by a Nobel scientist and his ballerina sister, both busily grinding some ever though there is no village for miles around; that Lucifer's imp turns up in the shape of a schoolboy kidnapped by his divorced father; and that even the local garage man goes in for devil-raising.

The plot is heavily overlaid at the expense of character and dialogue. What remains undimmed is Miss Aiken's authority as a storyteller. The events may criss-cross like tracks on an old map, but she never loses her power to say: this is what happens next. Nicholas Barker's production contains some stridently pushing performances, but it also conveys a strong sense of ceremonial magic calmly supervised by Hazel Penwarden, a white witch to her fingertips.

Irving Wardle

Covent Garden

Thursday could well have seen the return of Franco Zeffirelli to Covent Garden. Plans, kept under distinctly protective wraps, had been made for him to direct and design a new production of Verdi's *La Traviata*, which he wanted to dedicate to the memory of Maria Callas. The financing was only possible through a film, for the cinema rather than television, and the problems of lining up studios, artists and costumes proved impossible in the time available. So a revival of *La Bohème* was whisked in instead.

Covent Garden is still likely to have its new *Traviata* — the designs are all there waiting — but not for the moment. Zeffirelli's film version is probably coming first and the theatre will have to follow the studios.

The present *Bohème* revival has been built round the two principals of that promised *Traviata*: Ileana Cotrubas and Neil Shicoff. And in the event it is Mme Cotrubas who steals the evening away from everyone. Mimi was tailor-made for her. The years do not state this interpretation of girl-woman, part flirt and part waif. Ileana Cotrubas insists that it is Mimi who changes the lives of all those whom she meets: Rodolfo grows up a little; Marcello at the final curtain clasps his Musetta; even Colline has cleaned up a bit.

The voice has the touch of sadness in the timbre that makes the early death come as no surprise, but there is also the strength to ride the orchestra, pushed pretty

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Philharmonia/Ashkenazy

Festival Hall

Safely returned, earlier last week, from a busy concert tour of Japan together, Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Philharmonia Orchestra, whose principal guest conductor he has become, on Friday began to show London what they played in the Orient, and how on the tour Ashkenazy played the piano and conducted every concert. At this first home-coming concert he remained on the rostrum, and left the small but prominent piano part in Rachmaninov's *Symphonic Dances* to the orchestra's regular pianist, Michael Rabin.

The last half sentence will indicate that their repertoire in Japan was not all old hat. The *Symphonic Dances* were Rachmaninov's last major composition, the only one he wrote in America, and the ultimate fruition of his debut in the United States. Then, and thereafter, his music became leaner and more athletic, the heart now worn beneath the sleeve, though pulsating as strongly as ever.

The *Symphonic Dances*, a lightweight symphony designed for a ballet, seem to me the crown of all Rachmaninov's music: masterly, personal, exquisitely imagined for orchestra, purged of romantic pretentiousness. The sensuous music, whether subsidiary or principal, is important, remains entirely characteristic, but has sometimes seemed influenced by Hollywood musicals of the 1930s.

Ashkenazy's reading, the work of an experienced Rachmaninov specialist, supported the idea, and the notion of the work's symphonic poetry. The movements contrasted more firmly than usual, each new idea given its own personality, fully lodged, for example the violin melody at the end of the first dance, and the alto saxophone solo (John Harle's style was recognizable, before I looked at the platform or the programme).

It was a superior reading, like a superior performance, "Reverie", an early, sensuous piece of which Ashkenazy made surprisingly much, by colouring and rubato, for an English listener quite close to favourite Delius short works of the same period, the turn of the century. Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony* was affectionately done, with feathery strings, and liquid wind solo, no wonder the head waiter at the Café Momus wiped his hands down his apron after touching it — and is portrayed as *une femme d'un certain âge*. (Her escort, the unhappy Alcindo, is appropriately younger than usual.) Her brassiness and auburn hair contrast well with Cotrubas's delicate features, but she could do with the Romanian soprano's control of the upper register.

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John Higgins

Concerts

depth, though with a cleanliness of attack that kept it from being at all stodgy, and particularly again in the Mendelssohn, there was a confident grasp of how important proportion and weight are to the projection of melody. Given their skill here, I would have liked to have heard them in some real baroque and classical music, not just in Mendelssohn's very appealing counterfeits.

The only other possible disappointment was that an orchestra from half a way round the world should sound so little different in terms of musical approach from one nearer home, but merely better. That, however, is a comment on the standardization of our musical culture, and there was at least a taste of regional fare in Peter Sculthorpe's *Lament*, composed for this ensemble in 1976.

I had heard nothing of Sculthorpe since the 1960s, when he was into south-east Asian music and bright, simply soundscapes. Evidently things have changed. This *Lament* — claimed by the composer as one of his favourite recent works, which was nice to know — has more to do with Brahms than Bali. It is a very ambitious, wide, slow movement dwelling on a cello theme that Sculthorpe would like to think reveals "a characteristic debt to Mahler", perhaps forgetting that Mahler's ideas tended to be considerably more sophisticated and very much more fully developed.

Paul Griffiths

Concerts

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Why we are backing Tebbit's bad Bill

by Brian Capstick

A member of the SDP Trade Union Reform Group

Social Democratic MPs will vote tonight with the Government in support of the Employment Bill, some of them reluctantly so because, despite its popularity with the electorate, the Bill is unlikely to do much to improve industrial relations. For the most part, it re-enacts the battles of years gone by, using the weapons of the period, and is largely irrelevant to the contemporary industrial relations scene.

The Bill's main provisions relate to trade union immunities and the closed shop, and in both cases its principal innovation is to open up the possibility of big cash prizes for the successful litigant. For the first time in recent years the Bill exposes unions themselves to legal action, so that employers who are victims of secondary or political action which the union has authorised can recover damages from the union's institutional funds.

In principle there is no reason why the Queen's Writ should stop at the door of Transport for London, but the problem is that by aiming, as Mr. Len Murray put it, "at the heart" of the union movement, the Government is striking at the wrong organ. The heart of the trade union movement is a sclerotic but generally responsible affair, which is often seen at its liveliest

when superannuation is on the agenda. The real mischief in industrial relations is wrought not by the heart but by the arms and legs of the trade union movement, the local groups of activists and militant shop stewards. Mr. Tebbit's Bill will do nothing to restrain their activity, and may even encourage it.

One life-line which besieged employers have relied upon in the past is the (diminishing) influence which full-time union officials may bring to bear on shop-floor mavericks' but, by putting union funds at risk through the activities of full-time officials, the Bill may force them to retire from the scene and make unofficial action even more difficult for employers to control.

As it happens, there is an incipient branch of law which may help employers to curtail unofficial action by groups of militants, and which does not touch the unions as such. Instead, it allows employers to be much more flexible in their response to selective strikes than they can be now. An example is the Engineering Employers' Federation's proposal for lay-offs in selective strike situations, a possibility which is absent from the Bill but which is now being actively considered by the Social Democratic Party.

Another difficulty has been foreseen by Mr. Tebbit himself. It is that union coffers are generally light, and unlimited awards of damages would soon bankrupt many of them. Even Mr. Tebbit appears reluctant to do away altogether with his traditional sparring partners, and has therefore put a financial limit on what may be recovered in any given proceedings. Unfortunately, the law relating to industrial disputes is rife with situations where half a dozen different plaintiffs may start action as the result of the same or connected incidents.

A number of different proceedings makes nonsense from the union's point of view of any limit imposed on each one of them, and damages of millions of pounds could easily mount up as the result of a single incident.

A related problem has to do with the sheer complexity of modern labour law. No more than a handful of lawyers really understand it and most of them disagree with each other, with the result that a committee of trade union officials has a slim chance indeed of coming to grips with it successfully.

The consequence is that unions are at least as likely to stumble unwittingly into costly legal action as they are willingly to flout the law which can hardly

be the intention of a measure designed to tame the unruly behaviour of the overmighty subject.

One solution to these difficulties might be to allow unions to be sued in injunction proceedings, and only to allow their funds to be at risk if they subsequently disregarded any injunction issued against them.

The second limb of the Bill beefs up the compensation to be paid to the victims of the closed shop. What is most lacking in the Bill, and in almost all discussion of it, is a sense of proportion about this issue. The worst evils of the closed shop, such as the well-known British Rail cases, are largely a thing of the past and were due as much to management ineptitude as to union militancy. Most modern union membership agreements allow for extensive exemptions, and dismissals for non-membership are rare, being frequently provoked by the "victim" when they do occur.

What the Bill does is to provide tax-free awards of between three and four years' net pay (average income) for shop victims, a generous award by any standards and difficult to justify by comparison with the paltry awards handed out in race or sex discrimination

cases or unfair dismissal cases generally.

The Bill also introduces the idea of five-yearly reviews by ballot, a proposal which dismisses some employers because of the union militancy which the prospect of such a ballot is bound to encourage, and the damage done to stable collective bargaining if the result is a split into multi-unionism. One is hard put to see what need there is for these ballots when genuine conscientious objectors already have a quite independent right to opt out of the union and claim the same compensation if they are dismissed.

In many respects, therefore, the Bill is ill thought-out, but then, as one MP remarked, most bills are, and this seldom deters governments. On balance, the feeling of the SDP is that the Bill's basic provisions for compensation for closed shop victims and some limit on union immunities are along acceptable lines, but that the Bill is sadly irrelevant to the more pressing issues of the day.

Its potential for harm could be very much reduced by amending some of its details with the result that the SDP's best course is to support the Bill, albeit with reservations, and promise a review of the legislation if, as some predict, the cure turns out to be worse than the disease.

You can't keep the middle classes down

What has happened to the British bourgeoisie to make its members bounce back into a state of vitality and confidence?

Fifty or six years ago it was almost impossible to open a newspaper or switch on television without being faced with the spectre of a working-class revolution. I fear that I may have started this wave of pessimism with an article which appeared in *The Times* in December, 1974, under the title: "The Question Mark Hanging over the Future of the Middle Classes". A leader the following month on "The Anger of the Middle Class" thundered about the danger of a middle-class revolt.

An Independent Television documentary in June, 1975, was entitled "The Mangling of the Middle Classes", while the *American Magazine* devoted the cover and much of the contents to "Britain's Battered Middle Classes". In the same month Morley Safer, the American commentator, told the audience of a CBS programme on the state of Britain, "The rich still eat their caviar, but the middle class is no longer there, having been eaten by high taxes and 20 and 30 per cent inflation."

Faced by the serious prospect of an assault on living standards and institutions by a Labour government apparently committed to socialist egalitarianism, the middle classes responded by a mixture of embarrassment and apology. They were still suffering the guilt feelings engendered by the social and intellectual revolt of the 1960s.

The fate of the Middle Class Association, a campaigning pressure group set up by John Gort, Conservative MP for Hendon North, in the autumn of 1974, illustrates how widespread these guilt feelings were. From the outset it was bedevilled by doubts among the membership about its name. Gort saw those doubts as symptomatic of the change into which the middle classes themselves had fallen. "My colleagues in Parliament blush when you mention middle class", he said. "They can't call a spade a spade any more, although they still talk of the working class."

The late Patrick Hetherington summed up the view of many when he wrote in his book, *The Decline and Fall of the Middle Class*, published at the end of 1976: "Never has a section of society more enthusiastically co-operated in its own euthanasia. If the characteristic attitude of the middle class has to be summed up in a single phrase, it would surely be the words, 'I'm awfully sorry but you're treading on my foot'."

The mood now is totally changed. Members of the bourgeoisie hold their heads high again and no longer fear the growing number of professional people are deciding to trade money for leisure and to accept a lower material standard of living than their counterparts abroad.

In a poll carried out for *The Times* in June 1980, 60 per cent of middle-class respondents (compared to only 43 per cent from the working classes) said they would not work longer hours for more money; 61.5 per cent (50.5) said that they had no ambition to be rich, and 30.5 per cent (18) said that they had no ambition to earn more than their present earnings.

The middle classes led Britain into the Industrial Revolution and developed the work ethic as a necessary basis for life in an industrial society. It may well be that they will also lead the country into a post-industrial society where a new and much less narrow philosophy of life will be needed.

businessmen are facing bankruptcy, and that the spectre of redundancy is looming over some of the professions, the fact remains that unemployment is still an overwhelmingly working-class experience.

Throughout the twentieth century the middle classes have remained consistently better off, better treated at work and healthier than the working classes. Their longer holidays, lower blood pressures, thinner figures and higher incomes than the national average. They have also, in a society which is supposedly becoming more classless, held their own in the higher echelons of the Establishment, such as judges and senior civil servants, who were educated at public schools, has actually increased over the postwar period.

Could another factor in the regained confidence of the bourgeoisie be the psychological boost given by Mrs Thatcher's election victory in 1979? After all, her election campaign involved a passionate appeal to middle-class values and a repudiation of the bourgeois guilt implanted by left-wing commentators and intellectuals. Were not the Conservatives put into power to make the middle classes respectable (and rich) again?

In fact, studies of the pattern of voting in 1979 show that it was not the case that the middle classes rallied to Mrs Thatcher. The swing to the Conservatives was actually highest among skilled manual workers in the C2 socio-economic class. In the professional and managerial classes there was actually a swing of 1.5 per cent to Labour.

It is also doubtful if it is Thatcherism that has been primarily responsible for restoring the middle classes' sense of self-being and confidence. One of the main ways in which those in professional and technical occupations have increased their earnings and maintained their differentials from blue-collar workers has been by recourse to the distinctly non-Thatcherian weapon of trade union militancy.

There is also a strong case for saying that the middle classes have saved themselves from decline not by returning to the traditional bourgeois ethic of enterprise, ambition and commercial drive extolled by Mrs Thatcher, but by pursuing rather different values. A growing number of professional people are deciding to trade money for leisure and to accept a lower material standard of living than their counterparts abroad.

Ian Bradley
Ian Bradley's book *The English Middle Class* is published today by Collins, price £6.95.

Petrol: must our children still be poisoned?

by Des Wilson

I was angered all last week after being handed a confidential letter by the nation's top medical adviser to senior Whitehall colleagues which warned in unambiguous language of the danger to children from lead in petrol.

Had the letter been made public at the time that it was written, we would now be on our way to lead-free petrol and our CLEAR (the Campaign for Lead-free Air) campaign would never have been necessary.

It is a highly significant letter for three reasons. First, while ministers continue to say that there is no convincing evidence that low-level exposure to lead is a real threat to health, their own chief medical officer, Sir Henry Yellowlees, put himself emphatically on the record a year ago that "there is a strong likelihood that lead in petrol is permanently reducing the IQ of many of our children". No one can any longer claim that there is no high-level opinion opposed to the use of lead in petrol.

Ministers have to make a choice. They either continue to quote the report of the Lawton Committee as evidence that lead in petrol is not the main cause of lead pollution, or they have to accept the advice of their chief medical officer, Yellowlees and Lawton so contradict each other that there is no room for compromise in their views.

Secondly, those who have up to now criticized the Lawton report have been accused of not being open to reason. That accusation can no longer be made. The letter adds up to a complete rejection of the fundamental approach and conclusions of the Lawton Committee.

Lawton's report denied the link between lead in petrol and lead in food.

Sir Henry Yellowlees, on the other hand, says "lead in petrol is a major contributor to blood lead acting through the food chain as well as by inhalation".

Thirdly, the chief medical officer's letter admits that "there is no doubt that the simplest and quickest way of reducing general population exposure to lead is by reducing sharply or entirely eliminating lead in petrol". In this he contradicts ministers who still seek to pinpoint other aspects of lead pollution as the more serious problem.

I find it deeply disturbing, as I believe many MPs will, that such powerfully worded advice should have been restricted to a few permanent secretaries, and possibly to one or two ministers. The use of lead in petrol is an issue of considerable public concern. It is probably the major public health controversy in this country today.

If I am correct in believing that its publication would have caused a public outcry and forced the phasing out of lead in petrol, then its confidentiality contributed to a disastrous decision. We, the taxpayers, employ the chief medical officer, not his Whitehall masters. Do we not have a right to the publication of his advice on such matters before and after it is watered down or filed away in Whitehall? (In fact, this is of affair emphasises the need in this country for an independently run environmental protection agency as in the United States to maintain surveillance on public health matters outside of the influence of the Whitehall bureaucracy.)

Of course, Whitehall will claim that Sir Henry Yellowlees does not actually call for a complete ban, but surely the strength of his feeling

the risk to children is now shown to be too great for me to take any other course" and the nature of the risk he spells out, speak for themselves. It is also the case that shortly after Sir Henry's letter was written lead levels in petrol were set for reduction by 1985, but they have been reduced five times and on each of the previous four it was later decided that the reduction was inadequate.

Other countries, the United States, Japan and, most recently, Australia, have all shown that lead-free petrol is perfectly possible and all have acted on the health evidence.

In Australia, as in Britain, the petrochemical industry fought the decision to ban lead in petrol by decrying the health evidence and exaggerating the costs and difficulties. It produced estimates of the costs that were proved to have been exaggerated five times. The Australians, however, to quote Sir Henry's words, "opted for lead-free petrol... despite the substantial costs and the... penalties so incurred".

What are the facts behind the lead in petrol debate?

Lead is a neurotoxin, a brain poison. Between 7,500 and 10,000 tonnes of it are emitted into the air over Britain every year from car exhausts. It is not disputed that 90 per cent of all airborne lead comes from petrol.

As the chief medical officer confirms, there is a steady line of evidence, study reinforcing study, that low levels of lead exposure, children, who are four to five times more vulnerable than adults to its toxic effects, can be adversely affected. They can become easily distracted, hyperactive, difficult to control, or suffer from reduced intelligence. There is also evidence of a link between lead in pregnant women and stillbirths. That evidence has convinced other countries and has convinced a growing number of doctors and scientists in Britain too.

The claim that a move to the limit of 0.15 grams per litre by 1985 is the quickest way of reducing lead levels is nonsense. By far the most effective way is to do what the Australians plan to do and reduce lead levels for existing cars to 0.15 grams per litre while insisting that within four years all new cars

be manufactured to take lead-free petrol and all petrol stations be required to supply it. This is perfectly possible. Other countries have done it — can anyone really claim that the Japanese car manufacturers have suffered? Indeed, some British car manufacturers are already manufacturing cars to take lead-free petrol for export markets that demand it.

The obstacle to a ban on the use of lead in petrol is the enormous influence of the petroleum and car manufacturing industries on Whitehall, where Energy and Treasury officials have been particularly closely allied with the economic case. The problem is that all the estimates come from the industries concerned, yet in every country where this issue has been debated these industries have exaggerated the problems.

I have referred to the Australian case earlier. In West Germany, for instance, they said it would cost DM1,000m to modify refineries to reduce the lead limit; in fact it cost DM300m, 30 per cent of their initial estimate. Powerful vested

interests are being pitted against the health and well-being of our children and as is so often the case the economic interests are winning the day.

That evidence is even more complete now that the chief medical officer's opinion is publicly known. In my view the case is now unanswerable, not that there ever was a defence for distributing a poison over our cities in this irresponsible way. Were someone to propose it for the first time today, especially now that the full health effects are known, he would be given short shrift. These industries must be told that the practice is to be stopped as soon as possible.

Will it cost two pence, or three pence or four pence more a gallon of petrol? Possibly. In any event, I cannot believe that the parents of this country would put the performance of their cars before the performance of their children. Rather I would answer this question with another. Is the mental health of our children negotiable?

Des Wilson is chairman of CLEAR, the Campaign for Lead-free Air



Traffic pollution at its worst: in Britain 90 per cent of all airborne lead comes from petrol.

Whip hand in medical research

The next director of the National Institute for Medical Research is to be the man who brought you *Rees*. Dr. David Allan Rees, who has been nominated to head the Medical Research Council's largest non-clinical research establishment, with a budget of £8m and a staff of 600, has hitherto been principal scientist to Unilever.

He researched the structure and biochemistry of polysaccharides, and discovered a process by which otherwise fluid materials could be given physical shape. It is now standard technique in the manufacture of soft ice cream and instant dessert.

Dr. Rees has had connections with the Medical Research Council for the past two years as part-time co-director of its biophysics unit at King's College, London. He recently played an important part in suggesting a new management structure for the institute at Mill Hill, to which he will move in September.

He will succeed Sir Arnold Burgen, who is leaving to become Master of Darwin College, Cambridge.

Newweek for an advertisement puffing the magazine's bulk subscription service. The man, who seems to be an opinionated nincompoop, says his company is so dependent on imported oil that executives cannot afford to be ignorant of the day-by-day political developments in the Middle East. He recommends *Newweek* for facts and background.

Biased as I am, I suggest there is inadequate background here to explain how a weekly publication is to help in understanding developments day-by-day. The issue containing the ad offers on the Middle East only a sketchy story about Syrian training camps in Iran and a speculative piece on possible civil war in Sinai. Neither mentions oil.

In the debate as to whether a statue of Stanley Baldwin should be placed on one of the plinths remaining in the members' lobby of the House of Commons, supporters of Margaret Thatcher have but one concern — that there should be a pedestal left for her.

Silent service

Sir Richard O'Brien, the chairman of the Manpower Services Commission whom Norman Tebbit put on his bike last week, is the man who could be accused of 'disloyalty or indiscretion'. A few years ago he refused to show the Commons select committee on employment the MSC's annual corporate plan on the ground that it contained confidential figures. He maintained his defiance until minis-

THE TIMES DIARY

With sorrow I learn that the Playboy bunnies are about to bounce their last down Park Lane, where the new management seek a less risqué image. I sought to air it Victor Lowmyer tried to stop me publishing and ban me from the club — that their uniform of crumpled carset, cotton tail and

floppy ears was devised only to make the waitresses appear so ridiculous they had to be polite to the customers to prove they were still human.

In my limited experience, with their knees-bend called the Bunny Dip, Kleenexes stuffed down their décolletage and Scotch tape in strategic places, they were unfailingly polite and efficient, the next best thing to Lyons' nippies.

Winning idea

Another glittering prize for an aspiring author. The £5,000 holding hostages at gunpoint at St. Sincilar-Browne award — and here Jude Research Hospital, Memphis, write another *Animal Farm*, psychiatrist — in return for five mish-mash or Hard Times. A hamburgers, five cheeseburgers and some potato crisps.

The publishing partnership of Patrick Brown, owner of a Cambridge bookshop, and Clive Sinclair, of the computer firm, offer the award for the manuscript of the best, full-length novel of social and political significance.

Brown says they want to tempt authors away from the inward agonies of the individual psyche and back to the English tradition of political satire or novels with some real social background. Good luck to them.

Westminster and Lord Rosebery in common? Well, you may be right, but what I had in mind was that they were all at St. James's Palace on February 28, 1982, to found the Royal College of Music.

They will all be there again, in the form of Prince Charles, Margaret Thatcher, Dr. Runcie et al on February 28 to recreate the scene a part of the college's centenary celebration. Also there will be successors or descendants of all the others recorded in the pages of *The Illustrated London News* as having attended the inaugural meeting.

At last somebody has defined the value of a psychiatrist. A man Sincilar-Browne award — and here Jude Research Hospital, Memphis, write another *Animal Farm*, psychiatrist — in return for five mish-mash or Hard Times. A hamburgers, five cheeseburgers and some potato crisps.

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Brown says they want to tempt authors away from the inward agonies of the individual psyche and back to the English tradition of political satire or novels with some real social background. Good luck to them.

Puremark Ltd, which trades as the Sandwell Car Centre in West Bromwich. The licence has been issued since, and now the Office of Fair Trading say it will not necessarily be revoked.

If it is not, it will be like magistrates turning a blind eye to the fact that someone has been selling alcohol without a licence on the grounds that he was not giving short measure.

Off licence

Women's rights champion Anna Cooté has compromised her conscience and accepted half a box of claret bought from El Vino, the Fleet Street drinking hole which all right-thinking feminists are supposed to boycott for its refusal to serve women at the bar.

It came as payment for a contribution to *Punch* — a story about how Nicholas Fairbairn, the Scottish Solicitor-General who fell from grace, once made a pass at her in the deserted waiting room of an Edinburgh birth control clinic that happened to be open.

The incident had just happened, not dining out, at least, light lunching on it at intervals ever since. It was very honourable. *Punch* to pay for such a tired tale, even in wine of however doubtful provenance.

It was not magic which produced a shower of fine bone-china dinner plates at the end of Paul Daniels' run at the Prince of Wales theatre. It was Wedgwood. Daniels presented plates, specially commissioned to commemorate his 11's magic show to everyone on the theatre staff.

Members of Parliament enjoy the benefits of free post, but the perk does not work in reverse. Des Wilson, the pushful spirit behind CLEAR, the campaign for lead-free petrol, wanted to take a sack of 635 letters down to Westminster, one for each MP. He does not shirk where publicity is concerned.

The plan was stalled by Sergeant at Arms' rules that visitors to the Commons can deliver only one letter by hand at a time. Not even charities can save their 15/4ps by delivering in bulk because, as Commons' staff reasonably explain, they have no sorting office.

Stamped on
The plan was stalled by Sergeant at Arms' rules that visitors to the Commons can deliver only one letter by hand at a time. Not even charities can save their 15/4ps by delivering in bulk because, as Commons' staff reasonably explain, they have no sorting office.

Anna Cooté: compromising

David W. Report Parlia by hal

In say that common debate was might calculated quality or inc generation of in the press. High is intent. At that the gallery is built. Today is built. Immediately War, when m were remobilis. Striking and member ever known a politicians. I should say has been a m reporting debates and attacking the change is not. Why precisely why? In sho London and pamer nowadays of each Com three whose b it is to follow increasingly w which also ha to arm themse of speeches upper time. The Guardian in pa Long-serving dory puzzle priorities for distinct from statements, wh tea time, an opening speech



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

SELL! SELL! SELL!

Nothing symbolizes the contrast between the public and private sectors quite as neatly as the events at Laker and British Airways last week. Laker, with a record of cutting costs and prices to the bone, was forced into liquidation. British Airways, which has been notoriously slow to cut its manning levels to world standards, was allowed to borrow an extra £53m under government guarantee.

Nothing would have been gained by converting Laker Airways into a pensioner of the state. But we can ensure that more of elements now in the public sector, are taken out and exposed in future to the disciplines of the market. The Government's record so far has been disappointing. It has done little and plans less. The sales so far have been on the periphery, with the highly successful exception of the 51 per cent stake in British Aerospace. Over the next three years the Treasury is expecting asset sales of only £1,500m, a sign of the extent to which the early hopes of the Government have trickled into the sand.

The problems of Laker seem to have given new impetus to the Government's hopes of privatizing British Airways. These have been blown off course by the large losses which have been incurred in recent years by BA in common with other companies in the world airline

industry. Loss makers are never easy to sell; loss makers in an industry where everyone is losing money are clearly unsaleable. However, the losses are not the whole story. Some of the features about BA which contribute to those losses are the results of bad management over the years.

A vicious circle has grown up. The company's losses mean that it cannot be sold off, while the fact that it cannot be sold off has become an extra reason for postponing the moves to create efficiency which it badly needs. The Government ought to take urgent steps to put this right. Parts of the business, such as the helicopter operations, could be sold off even in today's difficult circumstances. For the rest, what is needed is a firm commitment to sell off the operation within the lifetime of this Parliament and a timetable to make sure that happens. The Government will have to accept that much of the money currently counted as loans to British Airways will have to be converted into equity if the flotation is to succeed.

A similar approach is needed in other parts of the public sector. The Government has not been good at converting its desires into action in such fields as the fringe activities of the railways, including hotels and ferries. There are large parts of the public sector which

cannot and should not be privatised. The railways are an essential public service and have to remain in public hands. Most of the gas and electricity industry fits the same description. Those industries which remain in the public sector must be encouraged to become more efficient and allowed to carry out the investment they need to become efficient. There is no sense in keeping an industry in the public sector and then depriving it of the means to do its job properly.

But the need to give those concerns which are legitimately part of the public sector proper access to funds makes it all the more urgent to open up to private capital those which can be run privately. No one should expect that selling off British Airways or the country's gas showrooms will produce miraculous gains in efficiency. Some of the companies which go into private hands will fail. But others will get the chance to grow by giving the public better service.

Nor should the success of the programme be considered solely by how much money the Government succeeds in raising from it. The proper location of the boundary between public and private industry is one of the Government's most important and hitherto least successful, areas of operation. It ought to show greater determination in its efforts to push on with privatization.

THE SOUR SMELL OF EL SALVADOR

El Salvador has now become a major issue in the United States, with sharp differences in Congress over what policy should be taken within the Reagan Administration there are differences of emphasis between Mr Haig, who has made a point of talking tough about possible military action, and Mr Weinberger, who has let it be known that he is less hawkish; while the right is beginning to be critical of Mr Haig for not matching his words with action. The reason is a simple one. Things are going badly in El Salvador, with a mounting death toll from the virtual civil war and the economy badly shaken. And there are grounds for fearing that by becoming more involved, the United States may be repeating the mistakes it made in Vietnam.

The basic preoccupation of the Administration is understandable. It does not want to see a domino process in Central America, beginning with El Salvador and ending with a string of hostile leftist regimes, all allied to Cuba. It believes, therefore, that it has to do everything necessary to support, or even prop up, the present Salvadorean Government, regardless of its shortcomings. So Washington is prepared to turn a blind eye to the blatant violations of human rights, which have led to the cold-blooded killings of thousands of people and mere suspicion of sympathy for the guerrillas. And it is making

the most of the regime's virtues in the presence of it of President Duarte, powerless though he is to stem the repression, and its aspirations to carry out agrarian and other reforms.

The trouble is that the policy is not working. It is simply not possible to present a regime with such a murderous record as democratic. And next month's elections will not alter that fact, because it is not possible to hold fair and open elections in an atmosphere of repression like that in El Salvador today. More critically, the regime is even having difficulty in holding its own against the guerrillas on the military front. The guerrillas are entrenched in various parts of the country, and they recently achieved a spectacular coup when they succeeded in blowing up helicopters within a military base. The prospect, therefore, is of a prolonged and bloody stalemate, in which neither the regime nor the guerrillas is able to win a clear victory, and in which there is more and more death and misery among the population; or else of victory for the guerrillas.

It would clearly be unreasonable to expect Washington simply to cut off all aid to the Salvadorean government. That would mean virtually handing the country over to the guerrillas. But it should use all the leverage that it has, by virtue of the regime's

dependence on it, to force a more constructive course. It should bring more pressure to bear on the Salvadorean army to end its atrocities. And above all, it should force the regime to give up its refusal to negotiate with the guerrillas. The guerrillas themselves have now proposed negotiations, which they previously refused, and such negotiations have been widely backed, both inside and outside El Salvador, as the only way to resolve the country's difficulties.

Such a course would be hard for the Reagan administration to accept, because of its reluctance to have dealings with Marxists. But it has to recognize the realities of Central America today, and the fact that there is a surge of opposition to the military regimes which held power for so long, with their close links to the United States. This opposition is helped by Cuba, and suits Cuba's purposes; but it has not been created either by Havana or by Moscow, and mere repression will not eliminate it. If Washington is prepared to deal with these new forces, in El Salvador, Nicaragua and elsewhere, it should be able to achieve a modus vivendi with them. If it is not, it is liable to find in the long run that its worst fears have been realized and that, like Cuba in the 1960's, they have turned to Moscow.

David Wood Reporting Parliament by half

To say that the reporting of Commons debates is not what it was might appear to be a calculated reflection on the quality of industry of the new generation of coal-face workers in the press gallery. No such slight is intended. In fact I would say that the average level of gallery ability at Westminster today is higher than in the years immediately after the 1939-45 War, when men in demob suits were remodeling their Pimms' shorthand and desperately remembering everything they had ever known about politics and politicians.

I should say, rather, that there has been a marked change in the reporting of parliamentary debates and then add, while acquitting the reporters, that the change is not necessarily helpful. What precisely has happened and why? In short, nearly every London and provincial morning paper nowadays reports only half of each Commons sitting, and those whose business or interest it is to follow public affairs must increasingly wait for *Hansard* (which also has early deadlines) to arm themselves with the text of speeches delivered after supper time. Refer any day to *The Guardian* or *The Daily Telegraph* in particular.

Long-serving politicians are clearly puzzled that newspaper priorities for parliamentary, as distinct from political, reporting have shifted to question time and statements, which occur before tea time, and rarely to the opening speeches in a debate. No

wonder. They remember, as do many reporters who grew grey in the gallery, that the red meat of politics used to be flung into the cage late at night, in wind-up speeches and during long sittings into the small hours next day.

That was when Commons theatre produced its high drama and low comedy. That was when tired governments got ambushed in the division lobbies, when Barbara Castle and George Wigg planned the public downfall of John Profumo, when George Brown had to be begged to resign, when Lord Downham announced at 2.45am that British troops would land in Jordan 75 minutes later, when Iain Macleod, the new Chancellor, suddenly died, and when Clem Attlee announced he would fly to Washington to stop the Americans using the atomic bomb during the Korean war.

At that time London newspapers kept open their parliamentary reports until the last edition was about to roll; and *The Times*, with its strict rule that the "box" should never be left empty no matter how long the House sat, always reopened the parliamentary page to give the time of "who goes home" or even to say that the Commons still sat. It seems to me, following politics to some extent though not many politicians, a radio channel wholly devoted to reporting parliamentary debates. Yet that is clearly not the answer. No students of politics can spend all their working hours listening to the *longueurs* of a debate, waiting for their special point of interest, and no one listening to the spoken word, however experienced, can manage without a printed text, perhaps summarized and sensibly explained. In the end, politics and politicians need the press as much as ever, and we must hope that the press will continue to feel they need Parliament. That is not the way most of the press now seem to follow.

parliamentary reporting, on all the evidence to hand, is to be explained partly by the ill effects of the decline in Fleet Street, partly by the decline in the standing of Parliament and parliamentarians, and partly by the blessings of a new printing technology that I no more love than understand.

This is no place, or this is not the typewriter, to discuss why both evening and morning newspapers throughout Britain, facing competition from instant news on radio, have brought forward their edition deadlines at a time when their transparent interest must have been to put them back. But they have done so, obviously for sound managerial reasons. So far, provide a solution. It tends to turn breakfast editions of Fleet Street papers into late editions of the evening paper, as it flagrantly does on the Continent. It also tends to pass control of the news flow from the reporter on the spot to technicians, who understandably want the alternating trickles and catarracts of news to reach their desks in an orderly way. ("Dear George, please don't resign after midnight" — the new technology can't cope with it.)

Some answers would be attractive to some, though not many politicians: a radio channel wholly devoted to reporting parliamentary debates. Yet that is clearly not the answer. No students of politics can spend all their working hours listening to the *longueurs* of a debate, waiting for their special point of interest, and no one listening to the spoken word, however experienced, can manage without a printed text, perhaps summarized and sensibly explained. In the end, politics and politicians need the press as much as ever, and we must hope that the press will continue to feel they need Parliament. That is not the way most of the press now seem to follow.

British stance on EEC Budget

From Mr Robert Jackson, MEP for Upper Thames (Conservative). Sir, The tone of Wednesday's Commons exchange about the European Budget (Parliamentary report, February 4) suggests that there may be a serious misunderstanding of the issues at stake. The main point does not relate to the relatively trivial amounts of money over which the Council contends Parliament was acting *ultra vires* in adding to the 1982 Budget. This will cost Britain some £2.5m gross a month — but in net terms Britain should make a profit from this spending, including £5m for housing in Belfast.

Rather, the central issue concerns Parliament's attempts to challenge the way in which Community expenditure is "classified", with the effect of limiting its budgetary powers over so-called "obligatory" expenditure on the common agricultural policy. It is notorious that the CAP is not subject to proper budgetary control, leading to a 23 per cent annual growth in expenditure between 1976 and 1979. The Council has so far consistently been unable to resolve this problem within itself, either by obliging agricultural ministers to take account of the financial costs of their decisions, or by agreeing upon new and costly policies. Of course, this weakness of financial discipline over the CAP lies near the root of the overall imbalance in Britain's net contribution to the European Budget.

The CAP seems to elude the control of the governments in the Council. *A fortiori* it is not subject to the control of the national parliaments.

In fact, the only way to impose financial discipline over the CAP is to make it fully subject to a normal process of Budget-making, so that the claims of agriculture can be properly weighed against other priorities, and so that an adequate measure of public accountability for public money spent by the European Community can be exerted through the European Parliament. This is what the Parliament is contending for, and it is to be hoped that, in the interests of Britain and the Community as a whole, the British Government will support its efforts.

Westminster should not see every extension of the European Parliament's powers as a loss for itself: neither Parliament will lose, nor the developments now at issue. The principle of parliamentary accountability will be the gainer.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT JACKSON
4 Churton Place, SW1.

Canada's Constitution

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Essex, South East (Conservative). Sir, The British Parliament, as Lord Denning confirmed in his judgment last week, retains the power to repeal or amend the Canadian Constitution contained in the British North America Act, 1867 to 1930.

I know of no member of Parliament who is not prepared to give up this power, but we are asked to do more than this, if we enact the Canada Bill. We are expected to approve at Westminster, against strenuous opposition within Canada, a new Canadian Constitution containing a detailed Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

While we retain jurisdiction, therefore, we cannot be expected to enact so comprehensive a measure blindly and uncritically. We have not only the right but

Abiding commitment to British Rail

From Mr T. R. Thomas. Sir, My grandfather, J. H. (Jimmy) Thomas, was a tough man. He was the signatory, on behalf of the railway unions, to the agreement dated November 6, 1918, which achieved the eight-hour day for railwaymen. It is this agreement, signed over 60 years ago that is the root cause of the current dispute. My grandfather was also, not in order of importance, a great railwayman, a great union man and a great patriot. He believed passionately and equally in the rights of the working man and the importance of a strong British economy.

Over the weeks of the rail dispute, I have often wondered what Grandpa's position would have been. I believe that he would not have called a strike that savaged the public, damaged the economy and (above all) jeopardized the future importance and viability of his own industry. In my heart I know that he would never have allowed this dispute to reach the levels of inanity that prevail.

In particular, he would never, as a good argumentative Welshman, have allowed what he believed to be a good case to go by default. He would have talked, talked, and talked again.

Think on it Mr Buckton. Could you look me in the eye and say that Jimmy Thomas would have given you his blessing? And, before you say "irrelevant", look up the records and see what he achieved for your members.

Yours faithfully,
TIM THOMAS,
Frisley's Wood,
Billingshurst, Sussex.
February 5.

From Mr Harley Sherlock. Sir, In your editorial today (February 4) you summarise the cause of the travelling public's present misery by referring to Aslef as "a doomed craft union". But you show very little sympathy to the members of this union who, in the name of productivity, have given up nearly a third of their jobs in the last 15 years. Surely they are by now entitled to some assurance from the Government that the necessary capital investment will be available to ensure that British Rail becomes more productive through the use of better equipment and an increase in custom: not just through the shedding of labour.

The Government, as paymaster, also has its rights and cannot be expected to sign a blank cheque without some positive sign that words about increased productivity are going to be translated into deeds. It is important therefore that the present calamity should be made the occasion for everyone to look beyond the entrenched positions and to decide whether they

want a railway system or whether, for widely different reasons, they want to see the system strangled to death. There are a lot of us living on this small island and, unless we are prepared to turn our remaining agricultural land into an endless suburb, most of us will continue to live in densely populated cities which are dependent on good public transport. Without an extensive railway system, these cities will suffer socially, economically and environmentally.

It is therefore in the national interest that the Government stops sitting on the sidelines and confers that the country is committed to keeping its railways rather than allowing them to become steadily less efficient through lack of capital investment. Without such an assurance neither management nor work force can be expected to plan positively for the future.

Yours faithfully,
HARLEY SHERLOCK,
Chairman, Transport 2000,
258 Pentonville Road, N1.

From the Secretary General of the Council of Civil Service Unions. Sir, The attack on Aslef in your leader of February 4 would be more credible if *The Times* had a consistent record of championing arbitration (whether binding or otherwise) against independent inquiries in general.

Last year I repeatedly told the Government, the press, and anyone who would listen that the Civil Service unions were willing to seek resolution of our dispute through conciliation or through binding or non-binding arbitration. *The Times* did not urge the Government to take that statesmanlike course or condemn the "self-righteous cussedness" of the employer. It could not, conversely, have made more plain its determination that Civil Service unions should be beaten, no matter what the cost.

I can only conclude that *The Times* believes in arbitration when it thinks such a course would favour the employer. That is a travesty of the purpose of arbitration. Yours sincerely,
W. J. KENDALL,
Secretary General,
Council of Civil Service Unions,
19 Rochester Row, SW1.
February 5.

From Mr David Mitchell. Sir, Mr Jack Dash led the assault which emasculated the London docks beyond the point of recovery. Is history about to repeat itself in the form of Mr Ray Buckton and the British railway system? Yours faithfully,
DAVID MITCHELL,
Hollington House,
Tydd St Giles,
Wickham, Cambridgeshire.

He has, however, reaffirmed the solemn and binding nature of the obligations owed by the Crown in Canada to the Indians, Metis and Inuit nations. He gave us at Westminster the broadest hint when he concluded that "No Parliament should do anything to lessen the worth of these guarantees".

A petition by Indian chiefs which I presented to Parliament on January 22 contains incontrovertible evidence of past extinguishment of native rights and there is disturbing evidence that Canadian governments intend to terminate these rights when they have the power to do so. Our moral duty at Westminster is clear: we must lay our part in ensuring that the guarantees affirmed by Lord Denning can never in the future be broken.

Yours truly,
BERNARD BRAINE,
House of Commons.
February 2.

commodities, products and services. Once these are established and contacts made, a vigorous and continuous follow-up exercise is activated, with check-listed results monitored — result, maximisation of two-way trade.

My firm impression has been that BOTH the one-way traffic and as such, the multi-dimensional totality of trade involvement (as for instance practised by Japan and West Germany) is reduced to one single dimension: exports.

There have been literally hundreds of outward missions to the ASEAN area but market share has fallen steadily over the past ten years. In other words the cost effectiveness is problematical. If there is acceptance of South East Asian growth prospects as the most viable trading area in the next ten years, British posts overseas should be specifically charged with the responsibility of co-ordinating all trade-related activities. While respecting the experience and dedication of those exercising control, there is a requirement for natural motivators. They should have sufficient drive and enthusiasm, combined with delegated authority, to inspire involvement in total trade expansion in all its multi-dimensional implications and commitments.

There should also be continuity in order to maintain momentum. They could be subordinate to a director general of trade in the area, with complete regional autonomy in South East Asia. The organisational structure of the former South East Asian Command (SEAC) very ably led by the then (late) Lord Louis Mountbatten is a good example of such a potentially successful headquarters which could be based in Hongkong.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK MCKELLAR,
Senior Representative UK,
Hong Kong Trade Development Council,
14-16 Cockspar Street, SW1.

Conserving the countryside

From the Chairman of the Countryside Commission. Sir, Your perceptive second leader, "Cambria's untrodden way", of February 2, goes a long way to answer points made in the letter from Alan Mattingly, of the Ramblers' Association, which you published on the previous day. But your readers could still be under three misconceptions about the plans of the Countryside Commission.

First, Mr Mattingly says we are closing our regional offices. In fact we are closing two, leaving seven offices in England and one in Wales, with some corresponding boundary adjustments. This is in response to staff reductions imposed on us; in fact, a larger proportion of our rather smaller staff will be in regional offices in future than now.

Secondly, it is quite untrue to state that the commission "is becoming heavily involved in... wildlife conservation"; our policy continues as previously, of furthering the conservation and enhancement of the countryside's natural beauty and amenity of which the wildlife is an integral part.

Thirdly, the reference to "a switch in priority from recreation to conservation". That is correct, for we do plan to put rather more of our resources into countryside conservation in the future. We see protection of the countryside as the prerequisite for its enjoyment; and we believe our sense of priorities accords with that of the public at large. But Mr Mattingly and the rambling fraternity need have no fear that their interests will be forgotten. Most of our grant aid is currently for recreation and access schemes — footpath improvement, creation of country parks and picnic sites, access to moorland, heath and woodland for example — and they will continue to be important features of our programme after we become independent of the Civil Service this coming April.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK BARBER, Chairman,
Countryside Commission,
John Dover House,
Crescent Place,
Clontarf,
Gloucestershire.
February 4.

University challenge

From the Director of the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Sir, Professor Robin Marriot's brilliant defence of Britain's universities (feature, February 5) is correct in its facts and impressive in its arguments. I wonder whether you would be prepared to give Sir Keith Joseph a chance to make his case in your columns, if indeed he has anything to say.

More particularly, I for one should be interested to know why it is that successive governments of Britain have, to use Robin Marriot's words, turned against the thing which the country does particularly well. Yours sincerely,
RALF DAHRENDORF, Director,
The London School of Economics and Political Science,
(University of London),
Houghton Street, WC2.
February 5.

The buyer's premium

From the President of the British Antique Dealers' Association.

Sir, In Mr Leisenring's letter of February 2 regarding the buyer's premium, his knowledge of the American reaction would appear to be somewhat misguided. The support that my association and the Society of London Art Dealers received from all the art and antique associations and museums of America was very considerable, both in sentiment and finance.

Does Mr Leisenring earn a living from buying at either Sotheby Parke Bernet or Christie's New York? For if he does not, I would point out that over 75 per cent of the buyers at those auction houses are people who do.

No! I am in total agreement with your paper's leader (January 16). What other purpose could both parties for the same transaction? Yours faithfully,
CHARLES B. LEE,
The British Antique Dealers' Association Ltd,
20 Rutland Gate, SW7.
February 3.

The Tawney tradition

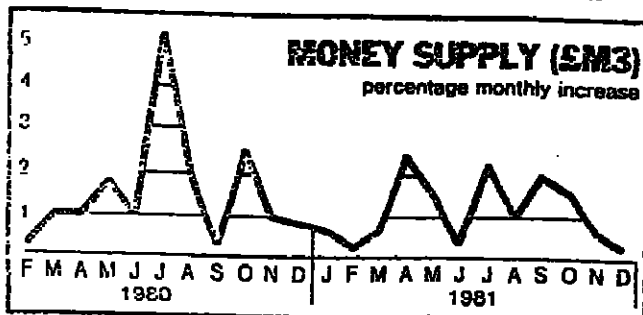
From Professor L. S. Pressnell.

Sir, "Valiant efforts are made by left-wing publicists to claim him. It will not do." (*The Times*, November 28, 1961). Your leading article on Tawney's eightieth birthday acknowledged that "No man alive has a more people into his spiritual and intellectual debt".

How wrong for any group intent on political power to debate that achievement and themselves by now appropriating it for narrower ends. How inconsiderate also towards existing, well-established, and emphatically non-political institutions more properly carrying his name: the Tawney Society of history students at his main academic home, the London School of Economics, and the distinguished annual Tawney lectureship of the Economic History Society. Let the SDP repent of their error. Now. Yours sincerely,
L. S. PRESSNELL,
Eliot College,
University of Kent at Canterbury,
Canterbury.
February 4.

BUSINESS NEWS

M3 likely to rise by 1pc



The Bank of England publishes tomorrow its preliminary estimate of the growth in sterling M3, the broad measure of banking money, for the banking month to mid-January. Many City estimates look for growth of 1-1.5 per cent. Figures for the London clearing banks will give some idea of the buoyancy of bank lending to the private sector, but the figures are likely to understate the true trend because of the large scale purchases of commercial bills by the Bank of England in its open market operations.

Sangers shake-up expected

Sparks look certain to fly at the special board meeting at Sangers, the loss making pharmaceutical group, called for tomorrow. On the agenda is expected to be the invitation for Mr Tom Whyte, who holds 24 per cent of the shares, to join the board and a call for the resignation of several of Sangers' directors and Hill Samuel, its financial advisers.

Mr Whyte, former head of the crashed Triumph Investment Trust, last night expressed dissatisfaction with Hill Samuel's financial advice and complained that the last chairman's report had made no mention of the group's mounting financial losses. Mr Whyte bought his stake in Sangers in July when he believed a recovery was on the way in the United States pharmaceutical industry. Mounting costs and competition have resulted in losses so far of £1m in the six months to August 31.

Since then he has recommended the appointment of Mr Philip Saul, a lawyer, and Mr Brian Plinn, an accountant, whose brief is believed to include the sale of the main loss makers and realization of assets.

ACC warns to Ronson

Speculation was growing yesterday that a majority of directors on the board of ACC was now prepared to accept Mr Gerald Ronson's bid of £46m against the earlier offer from Mr Robert Holmes a Court of £30m. Mr Holmes a Court has also been asked by shareholders of TVW Enterprises, his television offshoot, why he has not taken up Mr Ronson's higher offer.

SE Labs (EMI), the telecommunications equipment manufacturing subsidiary of Thorn EMI, has changed its name to Datatech.

RCA, Philips and Signetics of America have signed an agreement to design and develop advanced high speed micro chips.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Realignment at Imps

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 578.8 up 3.3
FT Gilt 65.15 up 0.20
FT all share 329.93 up 1.21
Bargains 23,166

Imperial Group should show an improved second-half performance in the full-year figures for the year to October due on Thursday. Analysts are looking for profits of £100m against £127m in 1980.

Unexpectedly poor first-half results from profits had slumped from £70.7m to £29.7m, led by reorganization plans which could include the £130m sale of its food division. There are also rumours that the poultry division will be shed.

As the British tobacco market had continued to shrink, Imperial's margins have been helped by price increases last September and again in January, but there is still the possibility of further redundancies in the tobacco division.

Evidence of better cigarette earnings in the United Kingdom in the second half came last week from Gallaher whose trading profits were up from £59.7m to £64.7m.

There should also be an improved performance in the second half from Howard Johnson, the United States subsidiary, where operations, which include hotels, restaurants and food manufacture, are heavily dependent on summer traffic.

Analysts expect the dividend to be maintained at 18.3p for the year with an improvement in profits during 1982. Earnings before tax are expected to rise with estimates ranging from £115m to £130m.

How far-reaching the reorganization plans of Mr Geoffrey Kent, the new chairman, are will be critical. His new strategy has not

been fully spelled out and there are hopes that more details may be given with this week's figures.

Steps taken so far have included the removal of several layers of bureaucracy both at the head office and the divisions, but turning round a diversified group of Imperial's size will inevitably take time.

Lorbro's profits were down £3m at the half-way stage, but full-year figures due this week are expected to show a fall from £118.1m to about £105m, with a corresponding fall in dividend.

The group has seldom been out of the news, with last year's acquisition of The Observer and a 30 per cent stake in House of Fraser followed by rumours that Mr Roland 'Toby' Rowland would emerge as a third contender in the battle to control Associated Communications Corporation.

But although the House of Fraser will make a useful contribution to profits, the group's other United Kingdom interests are in a less healthy position. The Observer is continuing to lose money, and plans for a new London evening paper have apparently been shelved. There are also continuing losses at Hatfield, the Sheffield steel group.

Much of the interest in the group centres on whether Lorbro will make a further attempt to acquire House of Fraser, the Harrods store group.

When Mr John Biffen, Trade Secretary, asked the takeover bid for Lorbro, he promised not to add to its 30 per cent stake. But a letter from a Department of Trade official effectively left the Lorbro's rights as a shareholder were not affected.

Other exchanges: Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,365.70 down 2.88. Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones 7,801.88 down 32.82. New York: Dow Jones Industrial average 851.03, up 4.00. (Friday's close)

BOARD MEETINGS: TODAY: Interim: Samuel Heath and Sons, Home Farm Products, Meat Trade Suppliers. Final: Broadstone Investment Trust, Lancashire and London Investment Trust, Manchester Ship Canal, U.C. Investments. TOMORROW: Interim: Amstrad Consumer Electronics, Crouch Group, Guildhall Property, Wm Jackson, Donald Macpherson, Fisons, Investment Trust, Crest Nicholson, Ladies Pride Outerwear, New York Investment Trust. WEDNESDAY: Interim: Ashley Industrial Trust, Benn Bros, Epicure Holdings, Gripparods, Heelamat, Leader Group, General Finance, Consolidated Investment Trust, Consolidated Drapery, Securicor Security Service, Yeoman Investment Trust. THURSDAY: Interim: Christie-Frost, Christie Brothers, R.M. Douglas, Hamilton Oil & Gas, British Imperial Group, Mining Supplies, Mounlell Group. Final: Lorbro, River Plate and General Investment Trust. FRIDAY: Final: Alexander Holdings, Brook Tool Engineering, Rymon Inc, Wagon Finance Corporation.

Strike may lead BL to halt new trucks investment

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The board of BL could decide this week to withdraw investment approval for the company's new range of light trucks, a move that would lead to more job losses and closures in the strike-hit commercial vehicle operation.

After two weeks of strike action, it is clear that the future of BL truck-making hangs in the balance and directors will argue that without some further streamlining, the entire BL recovery plan could be knocked off course.

A decision on the 7-12 tonne light truck range is due from the BL board on Wednesday when it meets for the first time since the strike began. The trucks are on the market late next year and will complete the Leyland Group's model replacement programme.

About 12,000 Leyland workers at three plants in Bathgate in West Lothian and Leyland and Chorley in Lancashire—are on strike in protest at the company's decision announced in November by Mr David Andrews, the BL executive vice-chairman, to sack 4,100 of the 22,000 truck and bus workers and restructure the business in a bid to staunch



Mr Andrews: preparing to report on group finances.

mounting losses. Before the stoppage, Leyland was losing about £2m a week, and a report on the group's finances is expected to be delivered by Mr Andrews to the board on Wednesday.

Talks last week between management and union officials which followed the presentation by shop stewards of an alternative strategy for Leyland ended in deadlock and will not be resumed until next Monday.

Meanwhile, failing the success of behind-the-scenes discussions at Bathgate, it is expected that some board members at Wednesday's meeting will advocate the closure of the Scottish factory and push for manufacturing to be centred at Leyland.

This would also entail a substantial reappraisal of BL's capital spending plans. During the next four years, the company has estimated total capital investment at £1,439m, of which £300m is earmarked for the Leyland group. Of the latter, about £108m is to be spent at Ashok Leyland, the Indian truck operation, which is 50.6 per cent owned by BL.

The troubles of the truck and bus subsidiary have been aggravated by a warning

Also at stake is a joint venture between Leyland and a leading engine maker, believed to be Cummins, for the production of a new truck engine. The deal was expected to be announced within the next few months with the Bathgate plant making some of the components.

Leyland's plight, which follows last year's slump in the commercial vehicle market, has been underlined by industry figures just released which show that while total United Kingdom truck and bus sales rose in January by more than a quarter compared with a year earlier, BL's share fell from 20 per cent to under 16 per cent. Ford increased its share to a record 44 per cent.

Further pressure on the strikers has come from senior management and shop stewards at BL's Jaguar factory in Coventry which is dependent upon supplies of six-cylinder engine blocks from the Farrington foundry at Leyland. In a plea to the Leyland strike committee, Mr George Fry, the Jaguar convenor, said that if new supplies of blocks were not found by Wednesday, jobs at both plants would be at risk.

Loan rates top Basle agenda

From Peter Norman, Brussels, Feb 7

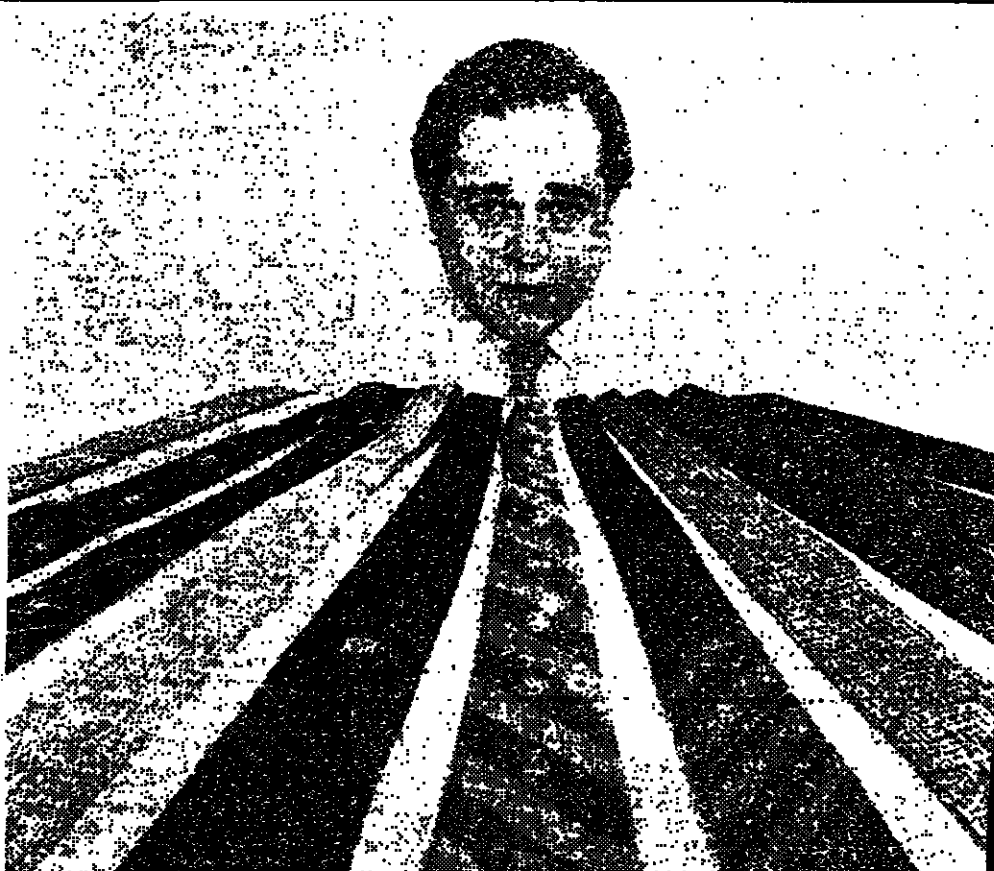
The volatile nature of United States interest rates is likely to dominate once again the regular monthly meeting of western central bankers in Basle, Switzerland, which takes place today and tomorrow in the Bank for International Settlements.

While short-term technical interest rate forecasts are difficult, a judgement of United States policy is now practically impossible in the light of differences between the Treasury and the White House on the one hand, which would like to see interest rates fall, and the United States banking system, the Federal Reserve, that lower interest rates can follow only from a fall in the federal budget deficit.

The monetary shock waves are causing some central bankers — most notably Mr Fritz Leutwiler, who is both the governor of the Swiss National Bank and the president of the BIS, — to call for a better management of exchange rates. But again, the United States with its rejection of an intervention policy, is the principal stumbling block.

Also likely to be discussed, albeit informally, is the Polish debt. The Poles have promised to settle all outstanding interest on their 1981 commercial bank debt by February 15 to enable the stalled rescheduling agreement for last year to go ahead.

The money has been flowing sparingly to the various creditor banks but the central bankers would be unlikely to ignore the possibility of Poland failing to meet the deadline.



Peter Klingner: equipped for competition

All tied up by sheer design

By David Young

Peter Klingner would love to get your company by the throat. His firm designs, weaves and makes up ties for most of the main companies and trade organizations in the country. He has recently completed a reequipment programme which means that he has capacity at his Hemel Hempstead factory to produce 40,000 intricately woven ties each week.

In the past 10 years all the plant and machinery at the factory have been replaced so

that the sheer intricacy of the designs that can be introduced should protect the company from competition from cheap imports.

Mr Klingner, who employs 30 people at the factory which opened in Hemel Hempstead in 1965 after the business moved from Manchester and Blackburn where his father founded it in 1945, said: "We can offer a service which the Third World textile producer can't compete with. We process the yarn, weave it

and design it all under one roof and the designs can be so intricate that only those companies which have invested in modern equipment could compete."

Most of the ties are produced in synthetic fibres. A recent design for the Post Office incorporates more than 100 miniature and highly detailed Penny Black stamps. But high quality silk is also being used for more and more customers.

Sun Oil may merge North Sea interests

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Sun Oil, the tenth largest American oil company, has been considering merging its North Sea interests with independent British oil company to create a "third force" in the British oil industry.

There has been speculation recently about Sun's future North Sea involvement — and in particular about the fate of its principal asset, the Balmoral field in block 16/21, 150 miles north east of Aberdeen.

Development plans for this discovery, which could eventually prove to contain more than 100 million barrels of oil, are reliably expected to be submitted to the Department of Energy later this year.

Speculation that Sun might be giving up the Balmoral field or selling part or all of its 63 per cent interest in the block has been prompted by two recent events. One was the resignation of Mr David Williams, the British geologist in charge of Sun's North Sea exploration. The other was a larger-than-expected £28m rights issue by Clyde Petroleum, one of the partners in the field.

Sun has denied that it was giving up the ownership of the field, and has insisted that no part of its stake was up for sale. However, it is reliably understood from industry sources that the company with the full knowledge of the Energy Department officials, has been talking with more than one British independent company over several months.

One idea under consideration is a merger in which Sun's interest would be combined with those of a second-rank British exploration company such as Lasmo, creating a new company with assets of several million pounds. Under this arrangement, Sun would keep a minority interest in

the new company. Clyde Petroleum is also believed to have talked to Sun about the possibility of Clyde increasing its 15 per cent stake.

The other possibility being aired is that the state-owned British National Oil Corporation, which is operating for a consortium drilling what is believed to be an extension of the Balmoral field in a neighbouring block, might take over development of the field.

Sun was said to be shocked last year when the licence covering the possible extension was given to the BNOCC consortium in preference to its own group.

If Sun decides to press ahead as operator at Balmoral, it has to decide whether to use a fixed platform or a floating production system and how to finance the operation, likely to cost several hundred million pounds.

Iran has reduced the official price of its crude oil by \$1 a barrel in an attempt to boost exports, the Middle East Economic Survey reported yesterday.

The authoritative weekly oil newsletter said the National Iranian Oil Company released the cut in official prices to its customers on Friday.

The new official prices, on the basis of 30 days' credit are \$33.20 a barrel for Iranian light and \$31.20 for heavy.

The breach on the worldwide official price structure, both inside and outside Opec, was fraught with "weighty consequences" for the international oil scene, already witnessing a continued slide of spot prices. "Though where it will end is far from clear."

It added that because of conditions in the spot market, Iran's price cut was not large enough to attract as many new buyers as it hoped.

Reagan budget faces difficult passage

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 7

Early Congressional reaction to President Reagan's budget proposal from both Republicans and Democrats was dismay at the size of the projected 1983 deficit coupled with fears that it could well go higher.

Democrats were predictably scathing about a budget which raised defense spending while cutting social programmes but the key comment may well have come yesterday from a Republican Senator, Robert Dole, the chairman of the Senate finance committee. "The Republicans I have talked with are frightened about the size of the deficit," he said.

He believed what the President had proposed was "a credible budget" but it needed "a lot of work". That means that even in the Senate, where there is Republican majority, the President has a fight on his hands.

The Republican whip, Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, described himself as "sort of in a state of shock" on learning that the deficit would be as high as

\$91,500m. But the real worry is that it is likely to be far higher, because that figure relies on Congress approving all of the cuts the President had asked for and that is very unlikely indeed. The cuts in the social programmes are bound to run into heavy opposition in the Democrat controlled House of Representatives.

Representative James Jones, a Democrat from Oklahoma and chairman of the budget committee, said the deficit was too large and added: "Unless we get the deficits under control we will have high interest rates and that will frustrate recovery."

Congress is likely to attack strongly the 18 per cent rise in defence spending which is equal to more than a third of the budget deficit.

Senator William Armstrong, a conservative Republican from Colorado, put his finger on the general feeling as he said: "When hawks like me are talking about cutting military spending you know something is in the wind."

Retailers call for shop hours study

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Retail Consortium, which represents 90 per cent of the retail trade, yesterday entered the growing controversy over extended shop opening hours and called for a government review before any new legislation goes through.

A shops Bill, due for second reading in the Lords tomorrow, could remove all restrictions on trading hours, leaving shops to open late in the evenings and on Sundays.

The consortium admits that the 1950 Shops Act has led to many anomalies but argues that lack of a consensus on shop opening hours should persuade the Government to set up a review before legislating.

This could take the form of a Royal Commission or a

departmental inquiry and a consultation document.

Mr Bob Lloyd-Jones, the consortium's director general, said: "A total removal of restrictions is unlikely to be acceptable. It is our view that change will have to take place, but that the change should be sensible and take full account of the need to protect both shop owners and shop staff and the community they serve."

The consortium's own membership is split on the issue. Some multiple chains are believed to be in favour of Sunday opening with later opening on more weekday evenings. But others are concerned, particularly at the increased cost of opening outside normal hours, especially on Sundays. Trade union opinion is also opposed to change.

'Use unspent £100m' call

By Our Industrial Staff

Nearly £100m, budgeted for construction projects but unused by Government and local authorities, should be rechannelled into the construction industry, according to Britain's civil engineers.

On top of this they want Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, to provide an extra £500 million in his Budget for housing, roads and sewers.

The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors said today Government help was needed to boost the ailing industry and provide more jobs.

Mr Derek Gaultier, federation director-general, said £60m would be underspent on

motorways and trunk roads this year, and at least £30m of local authority works.

The Transport Ministry was partly to blame, he said, for not ensuring that schemes would be ready to take up the slack.

He added: "We don't think we need to convince Michael Heseltine (Environment Secretary) of the need for more works, but this is the familiar problem of the Treasury's blocking things."

The civil engineers do not agree that money is being underspent because firms desperate for work are undercutting each other.

'Business as usual' spirit lessens rail strike effect
Coach hirers reap unseasonal benefits

By Rupert Morris

Industry is bracing itself for a fifth week of train-drivers' strikes with near equanimity — stung only by the worry lest the drivers' escalation of their action should be matched by British Rail and lead to a total shutdown.

With 85 per cent of Britain's goods carried by road, two-day rail strikes are bound to have only a limited effect, even if the decision to strike on Tuesday and Thursday this week instead of Wednesday and Thursday does, as expected, prove more disruptive.

For the vast majority, the strikes have been a nuisance, and the main effect has been to give a much-needed boost to coach companies, normally languishing from the tourist low-season, but suddenly frantically busy ferrying people to and from work.

The Confederation of British Industry's response was typically Churchillian. "The resilience of industry and its employees has not yet been broken," it declared, and went on to pay tribute to people's resourcefulness and ingenuity in finding ways of getting to work.

The increase in numbers of people driving to work has led to traffic jams in the cities, and many are sharing cars, and the most significant development, in the South-East in particular, has been the willingness of companies to hire coaches to bring their staff in to work.

ICI now hires 10 coaches a day to bring its employees to its central London, and reports attendances well over 90 per cent, while BP, which already runs coaches to some outlying areas, has put on an



Commuters hit, but coach hirers are booming

extra 24 a day, and claims that attendances are 100 per cent in most of its offices.

A typical London coach hire firm, like Atlas Coaches of Acton, has found its business doubled, and has had to hire another 17 coaches on top of its regular fleet of 14.

"It couldn't have come at a better time for us," Mr Bill Weller, Atlas Coaches' traffic manager said. "Our normal tourist work is down, but now we've got about another £1,500 a day coming in which we wouldn't otherwise have."

Regular coach services under the National Bus Company umbrella have enjoyed increased custom, but have only been able to put on occasional extra vehicles. Drivers cannot be recruited overnight.

The company's biggest problem has been to convince businessmen that coaches are a feasible means of daily travel — even though they point out that Birmingham to London is only a 2 1/2 hour trip, and Manchester to London four hours.

They will be pleased to know that Mr James Ackers, director-general of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, has resolved to travel from his Midlands home to London by coach this week.

Apart from the coach companies, few others have benefited from the train-drivers' action.

Hotels enjoying the custom of executives staying overnight at their company's request have lost their patrons who would normally arrive by train. Retailers are anxious that they will lose

custom, although business at John Lewis's Oxford Street branch is up on last year.

One of the worst-affected industrial firms has been British Rail's own subsidiary Freightliner, which expects to be doing only 35 per cent of its normal business this week.

Freightliner, which takes container traffic by road and rail mostly between Britain and Europe, lost over £2m in revenue in the first four weeks of the dispute.

Mr Malcolm Filsell, deputy managing director, reckons the Tuesday and Thursday disruption will lose the firm a further £1m a week. It is serious, he says, but remains confident that major customers will not be permanently put off.

The Coal Board, which transports 70 per cent of its coal by rail, says it has lost at least £3m being unable to move 2.1 million tonnes — the equivalent of a week's rail movement. It costs more than £1 a tonne to stockpile coal.

British Steel reported little disruption except at Lackenby, Teesside, where production has been cut 40 per cent because of a combination of the rail strikes, a strike at the export terminal and lack of stockyard space.

Firms such as ICI and Ford, which transport a quarter or more of their goods by rail, said they were using other methods and were not inconvenienced.

Road haulage firms, which might be expected to benefit from rail disruption, complained that the sporadic nature of the train-drivers' action had created almost as many administrative problems as it had produced new custom.

RENT REVIEWS

Calculated approach to long leases

Critics may well argue that the interest in the Brent Cross shopping centre was politically inspired, but it does at least show the council from the intense wrangling over rent reviews now taking place there.

The whole question of rent reviews is a grey area in legal terms with relatively little case law and the inescapable fact that virtually every commercial lease ever signed has some quirk or loophole which can be exploited in negotiations.

Arbitration, such as has been required at Brent Cross, has become almost the norm, particularly in cases where the lease has reviews only at seven, 14 or even 21-yearly intervals instead of the standard five.

What has to be argued in such cases is the price the tenant should be paying for the benefit of such a long review period or, in other words how much higher should the rent be than for an identical building on which there are reviews every five years.

This may sound simply like coming up with a suitable mathematical formula but as Mr Anthony Lorenz, senior partner of London estate agents Baker Lorenz, points out, there are a number of key variables to be considered.

In the first place the loading for a long-dated review has to be based on growth in the particular locality. The tenant of a West



Brent Cross: intense wrangling over rent reviews

End office building, where rental growth has averaged 10 per cent per annum in a very different position than, say, the tenant of a similar building in Wandsworth High Street, where there has been no appreciable rental growth over the past seven years.

A second and perhaps less obvious point to consider is the size of the building. The tenant who occupies a 1,000 sq ft suite of offices held on a lease with 21-yearly reviews, for instance, may well be prepared to pay £13,000 per annum instead of a market value of £10,000 per annum for the benefit offered by his review pattern.

Indexation of rents has become common in Europe and there have been a few

attempts to introduce it in the United Kingdom. But the British property market is more institutionally oriented and stable than almost anywhere else in the world and indexation would create artificial rent levels when supply and demand is the only factor which really governs rent levels.

In the absence of any legislation, or reliable precedents governing reviews, Mr Lorenz has devised his own method of calculating what the loading should be on a long review pattern lease, and applies this on the 500 or so cases he deals with each year.

Take, for example, a 21-year review. Firstly, he calculates the compound

annual growth per annum of the type of property in rental terms, and also estimates its market rental value.

Based on this compounded growth rate, he then estimates the market rental value of the property in five years' time and capitalizes the premium value which the tenant will enjoy on the unexpired 16-year term to the 21st year.

Then he discounts the capital value back to today's capital figure and rentalizes this discounted capital value. He repeats the process for the 10th, 15th and 20th years to arrive at a rental figure which reflects the loading.

Gareth David

BRITISH TELECOM

Why Buzby is wooing the businessman

The reduction of transatlantic telephone charges last week by British Telecom is expected to benefit the businessman immediately and bring his costs more into line with the residential user.

Telephone calls to North America were cut by 33 per cent from February 1 and in May there is to be a reduction in some inland trunk rates. Telephone calls at standard rate beyond 56 kilometres will cost up to 20 per cent less and those made in Britain's 100 busiest trunk routes will be 33 per cent cheaper.

The business user has long subsidized the residential user. British Telecom has about 15 million residential subscribers but its 4 million business users generate

about 60 per cent of the corporation's revenue.

Apart from the desire by British Telecom to bring business rates into line with the domestic consumer, the corporation is ensuring that its rates are commercial, since private telecommunications network operators in the UK could soon open.

How soon in the future that will be no one seems quite sure but British Telecom is losing no time in giving its service a commercial edge before any potential competition even gets off the ground.

A consortium of Cable & Wireless, BP and Barclays Merchant Bank was formed last year and applied to the Department of Industry for a licence to operate a private telecommunications network.

The network, to be called Mercury, would consist of about 1300 kilometres of fibre optic cable laid at a cost of £50m as the first phase of a telecommunications system. The conditions of operation of the licence are the subject of negotiation and have been for several months.

British Telecom has lost no time in seeing the need to improve its performance. Its new chairman, Sir George Jefferson, schooled in the highly competitive world of aerospace, did not take long to tell his staff that efficiency must be improved and so must productivity.

Plans for a new business service in London are disclosed and the corporation was at pains to let business users know that it would

have a network of high capacity fibre optic cable operating in the UK long before any rival. Last month British Telecom announced a link with Satellite Business Systems of America, the operator of a business satellite over the United States. The deal between the two companies would give British subsidiaries access to high speed satellite circuits.

However, it is unlikely that the business user will be content with the February reductions which still meant an increase in his quarterly charges last November of about £14.50 or 7 per cent despite the corporation's admitted inefficiencies.

Bill Johnstone

GAS

Pressures mount in face of shortage

The European gas market, for long the subject of little interest to anyone other than those professionally involved, is rapidly proving to be one of the most important and politically sensitive issues in the international arena.

Last week's gas deal between France and Algeria, coming hard on the heels of the surprise rally the previous week, came on Monday in response to a disappointingly small fall in the nation's money supply.

Investors are keeping a sharp eye on the money supply because they fear that if it is too high, the Federal Reserve Bank will tighten credit and cause interest rates to rise.

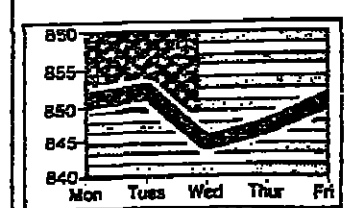
So the money supply figures released on Friday once again disappointed Wall Street.

The supply for the latest reporting week fell \$1,400m (€52m) instead of the \$3,000m to \$5,000m decline that had been predicted. That figure did reflect seasonal adjustments, and would without those revisions have shown a fall of \$3,200m, according to the Fed.

The rate of growth in the money supply over the most recent four weeks amounted to 14.3 per cent compared to the same period a year ago, a far cry from the 4 per cent to 5 per cent growth that had been hoped for last week.

At the end of last week, the Dow stood at 851.03 after small gains on Friday. Stock prices overall showed greater gains with 1,040 shares rising compared with 420 that declined.

Nervous watch on money supply

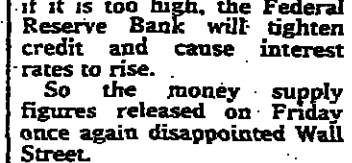


It was even being suggested that South Africa had bought some Russian gold to prevent it reaching the market at present, but that seems unlikely as revenue from its own gold sales is plummeting and a large balance of payments deficit is looming.

Two of the other big mining companies, Western Mining Corporation and Bougainville Copper, will also produce earnings reports this week but their results are almost certain to be down considerably as a result of weak world metal prices. Bougainville is unlikely to achieve anything like the AS94.4m it earned in 1980.

FRANKFURT

Motors advance

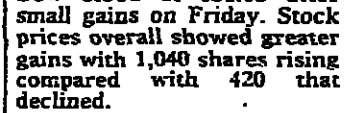


Selective buying by foreign investors has had a greater impact on German stock markets than the Bonn government's latest package of measures to revive the economy.

The Commerzbank Index continued its undramatic rise last week, breaking through the 700 barrier on Thursday before closing at 698.1 on Friday. Motors were one of the few sectors to benefit directly from the government's efforts. They advanced strongly when it became clear that Bonn would not be financing its economic programme through higher petrol taxes, and on the expectation that the proposed investment subsidy would boost demand for cars and trucks.

SYDNEY

Week for giants



All attention will be on the iron and steel giants this week with perhaps Broken Hill Proprietary the only one to produce an encouraging earnings report.

BHP, which is Australia's biggest company, will announce its net profit for the six months to the end of November, which will give an indication of whether it expects the huge profits to continue with appropriate response on the Stock Exchange.

MARKETS ROUND-UP

Living with cruel February

In the mythology of the Eurobond market, February is the cruellest month. "The best thing about February is that it only has 28 days," said one bond dealer. But will this month really be so grim?

The evidence for supposing that bond traders this month will be buying less champagne than usual is in two categories. The first is experience: dealers say that 1977 is the most recent year in which February showed any life.

Why this should be so, is, say the least, mysterious. Explanations range from the dates on which investors take their winter holidays, through the preparation of corporate and national budgets, to the tendency of banks and their clients to start the new year briskly, only to find that indigestion sets in.

However inadequate this may be, markets thrive on such folklore and it takes a brave and clever banker to launch his client upon supposedly apathetic investors.

Bond markets are finely judged at the best of times, and the reputation and therefore future business of a house largely depends on matching offer terms and timing to the market.

So we come to the second and more substantial argument: the immediate market outlook is even harder to read than normal.

When American banks raised their prime rates a week ago dealers' groans could be heard all the way from Moorgate. Is one to assume that hopes of falling rates have been dashed? Even if we are about to see rates, over 20 per cent again, as some gloomy pundits maintain, has the market the ingenuity to conjure up newly attractive instruments?

One theory is that another rise in interest rates has

Uneasy market

With the lack of any positive local news a nervous market followed Wall Street's lead by shedding 52 points during the week.

The Hang Seng index closed at 1,365.70, while average daily turnover of HK\$142.2m (£12.9m), an 18-month low. Institutions remained on the sidelines.

HONGKONG

Capital Markets

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	YIM	Redeemable	Price	YIM
100% 1982	100.00	14.72	100% 1982	100.00	11.21
100% 1983	100.00	14.72	100% 1983	100.00	10.21
100% 1984	100.00	14.72	100% 1984	100.00	9.21
100% 1985	100.00	14.72	100% 1985	100.00	8.21
100% 1986	100.00	14.72	100% 1986	100.00	7.21
100% 1987	100.00	14.72	100% 1987	100.00	6.21
100% 1988	100.00	14.72	100% 1988	100.00	5.21
100% 1989	100.00	14.72	100% 1989	100.00	4.21
100% 1990	100.00	14.72	100% 1990	100.00	3.21
100% 1991	100.00	14.72	100% 1991	100.00	2.21
100% 1992	100.00	14.72	100% 1992	100.00	1.21
100% 1993	100.00	14.72	100% 1993	100.00	0.21

Fixed Interest Stocks

Latest Price	Prev Price	Latest Price	Prev Price
Alb & Wilson 7 1/2 Dec	91 1/2	Alb & Wilson 7 1/2 Dec	91 1/2
All Lyons 10 Dec 87	98 1/2	All Lyons 10 Dec 87	98 1/2
Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2	Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2
Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2	Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2
Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2	Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2
Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2	Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2
Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2	Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2
Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2	Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2
Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2	Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2
Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2	Anglo 10 Dec 87	98 1/2

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PLC

moves

to a new address:

22 Bevis Marks, London EC3A 7DY
Telephone 01-283 8765
Telex 885253

COMMODITIES

Coffee price steadily improving

Just for a few blissful moments in the long and acrimonious history of commodity agreements, one seems to be working. Coffee prices are continuing to go better — but only gently.

This steady improvement obviously suits producers, while prices are still low enough by past standards to encourage consumption.

Not that anyone in the coffee business is feeling complacent. Battle lines are now being drawn up for the next set of International Coffee Organization talks next month. Inevitably some of the producers will want to alter the fine tuning on the quota arrangements agreed last September to try to engineer local improvements in their prices.

For the time being a reasonably comfortable balance between supply and demand has obviously been reached.

The International Coffee Organisation's pricing system on quotas is well explained (there is currently little temptation to cheat — unlike the conditions of 1977 when prices rose over £4,000, or four times today's prices).

So with high interest rates keeping dealer and industry stocks low, prices are sensitive to any short term hold-up in supplies.

Among the items that will probably be brought up at the March talks is smaller steps between trigger prices. The question of altering groupings of origins, so that quotas can be applied by type, will also be raised again.

At the sharp end of the business the consumer coffee market, the manufacturers are still having to work hard at the root of the whole of the soft commodity markets' problems. That is to persuade housewives to buy more.

United Kingdom manufacturers spent £12m last year on television advertising of brand changes. They boosted the market by 6 per cent. The latest product to be pushed is decaffeinated coffee, and perhaps the advertising boost this month will take some market share from tea, where the price is rising more sharply.

Sally White

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTER-CITY PEOPLE

W MIDLANDS

Inventors hit a blind spot

Sutton Coldfield inventor Peter Blanchard has made the sale of his career with his Eversure Blind Spot Mirror. This device, which goes on car sun visors, is being made and marketed by Eversure Accessories, a BSR subsidiary at Warley, Worcestershire. Ironically, this break comes after 20 years in the game, when he is 61 and only four years away from retirement from his job as representative for a manufacturing chemist.

Blanchard, like many other private inventors, says British firms are slow to take up outside inventions. It took him six years to get a British hacker for the mirror: one year to find a Japanese.

His advice to rejected inventors? "Never give up. The only people who may have judged your product are the boss's secretary and the landlady."

GLOUCESTER

Home and away



Pippa Collins (left) and Hermione Zatlouk, who are putting their skills as homemakers to work with Colzak, an interior design business they have started with a shop and office in Little Farringham.

Mrs Collins, whose husband James is a local farmer, is Colzak's seamstress and Mrs Zatlouk, wife of a barrister and director of a London investment company, is the painter. They have designed homes for the film director Richard Young (who does Minder on ITV) and the jockey Philip Blacker, and a nursery suite for the fashion shoe designer Moya Bowler.

They have access to rural craftspeople who will do specialties like hand-painted tiles or intricate carpentry, and are thinking about opening a London showroom.

BRISTOL

ECI sweeps in

There is a new name at Equity Capital for Industry, where John Gough is the South-West regional adviser. Although Gough is the group managing director of the Hanham, Bristol, industrial and domestic brushmakers Kleeneze, it's not a case of a new broom sweeping old.

The South-West post is a new one for ECI, which is funded by the institutions and finds equity finance for small to medium businesses.

Gough is a member of the CBI national council and vice-chairman of the region. His fellow advisers at ECI are Geoffrey Lavers (Leeds), Eric Sayers (Solihull) and Geoffrey Moss (Manchester).

LEICESTER

Footnotes

Robert Lucas, who helped to establish a footwear industry in the Caribbean, is reviving old shoe-making skills on his own home ground.

Lucas, 44, has won the £5,500 Leicester Small Business Award sponsored by the city's estates department for a project on the manufacture of orthopaedic footwear. Lucas, a former footwear factory manager in Barwell and later a lecturer on footwear making at Hinckley, helped to set up a footwear industry on the island of St Kitts while working for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

While planning his scheme he went back to school, doing an MSC business course at Durham University's Business School.

Now, with his wife Wendy, he will run his own business from Hinckley. The judges liked his scheme because it is reviving a local skill and will provide disabled people with footwear that looks good.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

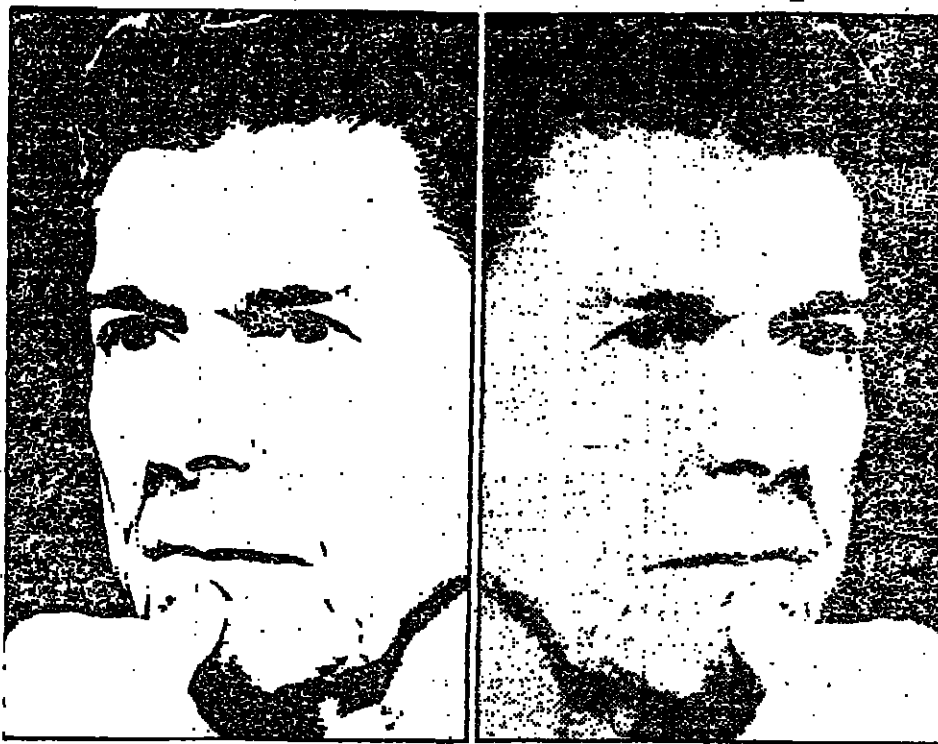
Mr Peter W. Barker will succeed Mr Joseph Palmer as chairman of J H Fenner and Co. (Holdings). He is currently, and will remain, chief executive of the company.

Mr A. N. Light has been appointed as group managing director of Laker.

Mr John H. Fleming has been appointed managing director of Vauxhall Motors, succeeding Mr Ferdinand P. J. Beckler. Mr Fleming has also been elected chairman of Vauxhall Motors in place of Mr Beckler. Mr Beckler returns to Germany as vice president of General Motors Corporation in charge of European Sourced Passenger Car Operations.

INTERNATIONAL OUTLOOK: Caroline Atkinson assesses the implications of the American budget

Conflicts in Reagan budget may keep interest rates high



Is he trying to face two ways at the same time?

Europeans hoping for relief from high American interest rates will find little cheer in President Reagan's budget message to Congress today. The large deficits which have frightened New York financial markets and, in combination with the Federal Reserve tight money policy, have kept interest rates high will continue under Mr Reagan's latest budget. Although he suggests \$56,000m worth of measures to shrink government borrowing next financial year, these are expected to meet considerable opposition in Congress.

Even if they were all accepted, the deficit in the year beginning October would be \$91,500m. Mr Reagan says, second only to that expected for 1982, the current financial year.

If most of the savings are rejected — as seems likely — the resulting conflict between expansionary budget policy and tight money will hold up interest rates in America, making it harder for the Bank of England and its European counterparts to bring their rates down.

Mr Reagan himself is not nearly as optimistic as he was a year ago about the likely effects of his economic programme. He warns Congress in the budget that there can be no "instant relief" from America's economic problems of high unemployment and interest rates.

Although the recession is still expected to end this spring, the forecast recovery is weak by postwar American standards. Despite declining inflation, interest rates on three-month Treasury bills are forecast to average 11.75 per cent this year and 10.5 per cent next.

Mr Reagan predicts that the economy will grow at an average rate of just under 5 per cent in real terms from the trough of the recession in March to the end of 1985. This growth will not be fast enough to bring down unemployment quickly. The jobless rate is expected to average just under 9 per cent this year, close to its postwar peak, and to remain above 8 per cent throughout 1983 and much of 1984.

Although American unemployment was typically higher than that in Britain during the 1960s and 1970s, 7 per cent is well above even a conservative estimate of full employment. It implies a considerable amount of industrial slack. The jobless rate for blacks and young people would be still higher.

What Mr Reagan does not make explicit, unlike Mrs Thatcher, is that the disappointing growth and continuing high levels of unemployment are the price being paid for bringing down inflation. This, the president predicts, will fall to 7.3 per cent this year and 6 per cent in 1983 after averaging more than 10 per cent in 1981.

High unemployment and unsold products as a result of the present recession are now the main factors curbing wage and price increases. But Mr Reagan attributes the projected fall in inflation to continued tight money, while blaming today's recession and high unemployment on his predecessor, President Carter.

Within the next few months, Mr Reagan argues, this unavoidable recession will end, being followed by a period of sustained growth.

Money and credit restraint, meanwhile, will continue to bring down inflation. It is here that most forecasters part company with the President.

Even the relatively gloomy prospect for the economy which Mr Reagan outlines, is too optimistic and based on faulty arithmetic, they believe. For if the Federal Reserve continues the monetary policy which Mr Reagan has requested, and which is presumably supposed to be embodied in the latest official forecasts, then the economy simply cannot grow as quickly as he predicts.

If the Fed eases up, as many believe that it should but few believe will, then the economy might grow as rapidly as the Administration predicts. But then inflation would be unlikely to continue to fall during 1983 and 1984.

The only way to make Mr Reagan's forecast internally consistent would be to have an extraordinary increase in the velocity of money or the ratio of money to total gross national product. This is implicitly what the president assumes.

But velocity increases year after year of the size necessary to reconcile the money and GNP assumptions in the budget are extremely unlikely. Moreover, velocity usually rises when interest rates are high, rather than falling, as Mr Reagan predicts.

The Administration is repeating last year's mistake in this year's budget. Although the president no longer pretends that it is possible to cut taxes, increase defence spending and balance the budget at the same time, he still assumes away the con-

"The Administration is repeating last year's mistake in this year's budget. Although the president no longer pretends that it is possible to cut taxes, increase defence spending, and balance the budget at the same time, he still assumes away the conflict between growth-oriented tax and spending policies and anti-inflation monetary policy."

flict between growth-oriented tax and spending policies and anti-inflation monetary policy. This conflict is likely to upset his economic plans this year and in 1983 as it did last year.

With monetary policy keeping a tight lid on the economy, the budget policy that Mr Reagan proposes will push up interest rates rather than growth.

The president's budget projects a steady decline in federal government borrowing from the current financial year's record \$26,000m to just more than \$50,000m in 1987, the last year of the forecast. The deficit is projected to drop by about \$10,000m in 1983-4. But declines of this size in a

growing economy would still leave the underlying high unemployment budget deficit rising, thus giving a net stimulus to the economy. A drop in unemployment of one per cent as forecast for 1983, would alone reduce the deficit by about \$25,000m. The underlying rise in the deficit comes because Mr Reagan's huge planned increases in defence spending and continued tax cuts swamp the budgetary effect of even the drastic cuts in non-defence spending which the president proposes.

The nature of these suggested spending cuts indicates another basic flaw in today's budget, a political rather than economic one. Unlike in Britain, the American legislature frequently changes the budget proposals by the Administration. Last year, Mr Reagan was extremely successful in winning congressional approval for his proposals, even unpopular ones, to cut spending programmes.

But this year, a third of the senators and all of the members of the House of Representatives, face reelection in November. Their constituents are complaining about the recession and about high interest rates. Cuts in the basic social welfare programmes, in aid to local and state governments, in job programmes and special assistance to the elderly will be fought long and hard in Congress. It is these programmes which Mr Reagan proposes cutting further.

With defence spending rising by 7½ per cent a year on top of inflation, retirement pensions untouched for

political reasons, and no way of cutting the cost of servicing the national debt, remaining spending programmes have to be cut deeply to keep the budget deficit from rising.

Congress is unlikely to make such cuts in an election year. Although budget deficits are politically unpopular here, they are probably easier to fight an election on than further severe cuts in federal spending, or increases in taxes.

The Congressional Budget Office, which provides non-partisan forecasts of spending and tax revenues, predicts on the weekend that with no policy changes, federal borrowing will rise from last year's level of just more than 2 per cent of GNP to 5 per cent by 1984, and will stay there even if the economy recovers.

This level, while not high by British or European standards, would mark a postwar record for America. Even the deficits during the Vietnam war and the build-up in domestic spending for President Johnson's Great Society were smaller in relation to the size of the economy. The previous postwar peak for the deficit was 4 per cent of GNP in the deep recession of the mid 1970s.

It is harder to finance any given deficit here than in Britain or Europe because American private sector sav-

ings are much smaller in proportion to the size of the economy. The Administration has on occasion argued that its cuts in tax rates will lead to such a big increase in savings that larger deficits will be compatible with both lower interest rates and a fast increase in investment.

The Treasury Secretary has recently repeated this. But when challenged last year to provide evidence that present tax policies would lead to such a change in savings behaviour, the Treasury climbed down from its claim it still does have a model of the economy to explain such a prediction.

Other Administration officials have said privately that they are unhappy with the appearance of this argument to justify the continuing large deficits shown in today's budget.

Rather than a big increase in investment, the budget proposals in combination with tight money policy are likely to lead to higher interest rates and less investment. Of course a more restrictive budget would not have boosted growth either. But it would have allowed interest rates to be somewhat lower, with the same monetary policy.

It is also possible that the Federal Reserve might have agreed to raise its money targets slightly in exchange for tighter tax and spending policies. However, for as long as Mr Reagan keeps asking the Central Bank to keep money tight, it is unlikely that the Federal Reserve will dare to ease up and risk taking the blame for any subsequent rise in inflation.

If Mr Reagan really wants the economy to grow rapidly and interest rates to fall, then he will have to call for easier money and to acknowledge that this policy change would mean more inflation as well as more real growth. With today's budget he is trying to face two ways at the same time.

Business Editor Budget options for industry

We should, perhaps, be grateful that the Chancellor believes he has any money at all to "give away" on March 9. But if the availability of say, £1,000m — £2,000m appears to ease some of Sir Geoffrey Howe's problems, it still leaves him with the considerable problem of how to distribute the largesse.

However he chooses to set about it, he stands a good chance of disappointing more people than he pleases.

Just to add to the complications, it seems that the major consideration may not simply be how best to split the money between cuts in the income tax burden and help to industry. The advocates of a reduction in VAT, as the best way to inject new life into the disinflationary process, have also been pressing their case with increasing vigour.

Industry has, of course, been building up its own list of recommendations to the Chancellor, and that will be taken a stage further this week when the CBI publishes details of what it would like to see.

However, there is an irony here in that the corporate sector as a whole is not in the dire straits it appeared to be in 12-18 months back. Corporate profits started to move ahead again last year and many forecasters are looking for a further rise of perhaps a fifth in 1982.

The liquidity position too has improved as a result of the massive run-down in stocks of the past two years. And after last year's issues of company balance sheets are almost certainly more lowly geared than they have been for a long time. (Indeed, if only interest rates would come down, one suspects there would be no shortage of companies looking at the opportunity to gear up with some long-term fixed-rate debt.)

This, it is true, is only part of the story. For a start it is a generalization, covering the corporate sector as a whole. There remain plenty of pockets of industry, particularly manufacturing industry, where companies would say that their position was still anything but comfortable.

This was all too apparent from last week's CBI industrial trends survey.

Also, the internationally exposed sectors of the economy are still suffering a major competitive disadvantage by historic standards. And if the pound holds up better this year than last, then they will need to make significant further improvements to their internal efficiency simply to keep pace with rapid change elsewhere.

In that sense any help the Chancellor can offer that directly cuts costs for British industry would be welcome. But there are those who would argue that this would not be the best way to set about things and that the way to ensure that managements continue to improve efficiency is by keeping the screws turned tight.

The Chancellor will have to weigh the merits of the respective arguments for himself. Certainly, the case for across-the-board help in the form of a cut in the National Insurance Surcharge, an unhealthy tax though it is, may be less than clear-cut. Apart from anything else it has the considerable disadvantage of being relatively expensive both in terms of the total amount of money the Chancellor has available, and in terms of the number of people who feel they receive any direct benefit. A 1 per cent cut in the NIS would cost about £750m in 1982-83.

The Chancellor might well feel that provided he gets the general thrust of his policy right, industry will in any case enjoy considerable benefits — overseas developments — from the generally lower interest rates during the course of the year. But that does not

rule out smaller parcels of help to industry.

It is hard to see anything much being done about corporation tax. The recent Green Paper is designed to produce changes, if any, for 1983 rather than this year. There might be a case for further cuts in the rate for smaller businesses. But for larger companies it is hard to see that the Chancellor can do much, particularly in what for many companies is the more pressing area — namely unrelieved advanced corporation tax.

For that large class of companies not paying mainstream corporation tax the Gyrils scheme or one of its variants, allowing companies to pay interest on certain borrowings net of the corporation tax rate, could have rather more attractions. But here again, many industrialists might well feel that a lower structure of interest rates in general, and money spent on other schemes, would be more beneficial than the cash flow advantages this kind of arrangement offers.

More specifically, the government could remove some of the problems with rates (wherever for instance, mothballed plant and empty buildings can still be rated), introduce capital allowances on a wider range of commercial building and accelerate regional development grants, where payment is still delayed for months beyond the approval stage.

A step to make commercial building more attractive would offer some help to the construction industry, one of the hardest pressed sectors, but would not in itself be enough.

There must be a strong temptation for the Chancellor to enable the speeding up of some public sector capital projects or give some form of direct boost to house-building.

The other obvious area the Chancellor might look at would be industry's fuel costs, particularly the electricity costs to the larger users. Overall, though, some of the steam may be taken out of this general area by the downward movement in the oil price.

Whatever the Chancellor does for industry in the Budget, it is certain to be limited. Meanwhile, the debate on the possibility of more radical reform of the corporate tax system is only just starting, and the debate on how to improve the corporate sector's real profitability and share of national income gets nowhere fast.

Money markets Dollar watch

President Reagan's projection of a \$91,600m budget deficit for 1983 after one of \$98,600m this year undercuts the continuing problems facing the American Administration. But those are problems that are unlikely to be of most immediate concern to world financial markets.

The markets' short-term worry continues to be the present state of United States monetary policy. On this issue New York appeared to finish last week in a state of some confusion. The weekly money supply figures, albeit adjusted, seemed to go down well enough, but the minutes of the December meeting of the open markets committee suggested that the Fed is now looking to slow monetary growth considerably.

That, of course, was in December and since then Fed chairman Mr Paul Volcker has suggested that the recent surge in M1 may only be temporary.

Meanwhile the London discount houses will be keeping an eagle eye on the response of foreign exchange markets and Eurodollar interest rates this morning. If the signs are favourable, then the houses, which hope for reasonably easy money market conditions in the first half of the week, may well be tempted to see if the Bank is yet ready for a further cut in bill rates.

After Laker, Kevin Page looks at other carriers' debts

End of an era for spendthrift airlines

Rash lending by his bankers is said to be one of the main factors in the downfall of Sir Freddie Laker. Parallels with Poland and the property collapse of 1973-74 have been drawn, although due attention has been paid in the past few days to the effects of the recession on air travel and Sir Freddie's own inability to restrain himself from putting together a deal on the back of an envelope.

It is true that Laker's bankers were imprudent in lending Laker Airways over £200m, much of it at a time when intense competition for increasingly unprofitable routes was crippling the finances of even the large national flag carriers like Pan American, TWA and British Airways. It is also true that Midland, Clydesdale and Samuel Montagu should have insisted on, firstly, stricter financial controls and secondly, a proper management structure at Laker.

But Laker must be considered against the international background. In 1981, the world's major airlines suffered losses of \$2,100 million (£1,088m). This year losses could total nearly \$3,000m. The top 16 American trunk and regional airlines owed \$10,000m in long-term debt in 1981 and are expected to borrow at least \$2,000m from external sources over the next decade. This is twice as much as they required during the 1970s.

Worldwide, latest estimates are that airlines will need about \$100,000m to re-equip their fleets in the next 10 years, of which only \$35,000m or \$40,000m will be met through internally generated funds. After Laker, it will become more difficult

for airlines to receive help from international banks. National flag carriers like BA, Lufthansa, KLM and Air France will find few problems. Most are owned and subsidized by the state, so banks are happy enough to lend at the margin in the knowledge that governments can always raise tax revenues to bail out national airlines. National carriers in the lesser developed countries should not find insuperable problems.

But independent airlines will discover from now on that banks will dictate much harsher terms. One senior aviation banker in London believes banks will seek to change loan covenants to ensure that money will only be available if say the airline raises its fares. The trouble with this thesis, according to Mr Matt Bowman, head of transportation finance at Merrill Lynch, in New York, is that an airline cannot increase fares unilaterally. In other words, the bankers would be happy to see the return of price fixing cartels which were blown apart by President Carter's "open skies" policy which announced de-regulation of routes and fares in 1978.

And Mr Bowman does not think much of suggestions from London bankers that banks should insist on management representation on airlines' boards. However, he does agree that despite a current situation in which five or six top United States airlines are in serious financial trouble, those companies which have a relatively strong balance sheet and flying profitable routes, will receive adequate external finance.

Mr Bowman also points out that Laker is a rare case in

that the vast majority of his funding was through banking syndicates. Banks in the United States are not volume lenders and account for only 7.7 per cent of airline financing requirements. Insurance company loans fund 23.3 per cent of total loans, with public offerings taking up a further 19.5 per cent. Share issues and retained earnings account for 38.9 per cent, while capitalized leasing arrangements on aircraft form 19.2 per cent of total requirements.

There are exceptions to the general rule that banks only lend to airlines at critical moments when other forms of lending have dried up. Over 84 per cent of Republic's total debt of \$532m is owed to the banks. Continental owes over 60 per cent of total debt to banks. In contrast, Pan Am, which has lost \$320m in the first nine months of the current financial year and has debt totalling \$1,160m, owes only \$9m to banks.

To date, bank loans to airlines have been made against airlines' assets, largely aircraft. The problem is that there is serious overcapacity at present, with demand for travel at a low point, and little prospect for improvement through 1982. More than 100 wide-bodied jets such as DC 10s are currently grounded, many of them in the Arizona desert. It is reckoned there are 30 DC 10s (out of a total fleet of 160) available on the resale market. Banks which loaned 80 per cent of the cost of say Boeing 727s, near to the end of their life two years ago, have seen the aircraft's current value drop below the cost of the loans. Bankers are extremely worried about their security margins. The

WHAT THEY OWE	
British Airways	\$1,860m
Alitalia	\$285m
TWA	\$672m
Pan Am	\$1,160m
Braniff	\$476m
Eastern	\$658m
Republic	\$532m
Laker	\$504m

problem is compounded because most airlines have few other assets than planes. Pan Am is an exception and was pressured last year by its bankers to sell its Inter-Continental offices offshoot to Grand Metropolitan for \$500m.

Privately at least, many world airlines and international banks are sighing with relief at Laker's demise (pro tem?). "His bankruptcy will bring realism back to prices and will make spendthrift airlines realize that it is possible to go bust," said one senior banker yesterday. But Sir Freddie alone cannot be blamed for introducing cut-price fares which have plunged the industry into huge losses and massive debt. Deregulation in the United States meant that airlines could fly anywhere and charge whatever they thought the market could bear.

Banks worldwide have been more than happy to finance airlines over the past 10 years. The era of regulation, which meant one airline enjoyed a virtual monopoly on a given route, guaranteed revenue. After 1978 the banks believed cheap fares would make air travel one of the few growth industries as the world's young and not-so-young discovered new continents at a price they could afford.

Now bankers are predict-

ing price increases of 35 per cent on the transatlantic run, where 40 airlines lost \$600m last year. The era of cheap travel is over. The second-hand aircraft market is dead. Airlines must continue to rein back costs. Pan Am employees have already taken wage cuts. But as yet there are no signs that the banks are writing off airline debt. The switch from rash lending to get-tough policy is already underway with bankers smoothly blaming everybody and everything, from Sir Freddie's arrogance to the second energy crisis. But not themselves.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14½%
Barclays	14½%
BCCI	14½%
Consolidated Crds	14½%
C. Hoare & Co	14½%
Lloyds Bank	14½%
Midland Bank	14½%
Nat Westminster	14½%
TSB	14½%
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£50,000-13½%
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The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Capitlisation £000s	Ch'ge Price	Week	Gross Divid	Yld %	P/E Ratio	Fully Paid
1,204 ABH 10% CULS	121	-2	10.0	8.3	-	-	-
4,052 Alspring-Group	70	-4.7	6.7	11.1	15.4	-	-
1,100 Armitage & Rhodes	44	-1	4.3	9.8	3.7	8.3	-
12,464 Bardon Hill	204	-1	9.7	4.8	9.9	12.1	-
5,953 Deborah Services	77	-4	6.0	7.8	3.8	7.2	-
4,111 Frank Horrell	129	-1	6.4	5.0	11.6	23.9	-
11,264 Frederick Parker	78	-1	7.2	2.2	33.9	-	-
923 George Blair	56	-	1.3	7.6	6.9	-	-
3,899 IPC	90	+1	7.7	15.0	-	-	-
2,520 Isis Conv Pref	105	-1	7.0	7.4	10.0	6.7	-
2,378 Jackson Group	94	-1	8.7	7.8	1.2	10.3	-
15,458 James Burrough	112	-1	3.1	12.4	3.5	8.9	-
2,570 Robert Jenkins	252	-	5.3	9.5	8.6	8.0	-
2,760 Scruttons "A"	164	-2	10.7	6.5	5.3	9.8	-
4,003 Torday & Carlisle	55	-	15.0	19.1	-	-	-
2,778 Twinklford	13	-	3.0	11.1	4.8	8.2	-
2,075 Twinklford 15% UL	75	-	6.4	8.5	4.9	8.7	-
4,120 Unilock Holdings	27	-	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4	-
9,506 Walter Alexander	75	-	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4	-
5,111 W. S. Yeates	219	+1	13.1	6.0	4.1	8.4	-

Prices now available on Prestel, page 48146

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

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England's women fail to force the pace

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a skier in a racing stance. The skier is wearing a helmet, goggles, and a bib with the number '2'. They are on a snowy slope, leaning forward with their poles planted in the snow.

Dancers make one proud to be British

final effort. Oxford were
now open to be taken for the
third successive time, yet went
to end the day with a victory
half a length.

**...not well
...pairings**

Mo Hammond, the British team
...answer was clearly decreased

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...the starting list of 16, and they came out on top. After an unprecedented series of disasters, Oxford's Boat Race (March) chances finally took off. They tamed London University, despite Oxford's President stroke, Conington, being injured, after promoting to make an oarsman unfamiliar to the starboard side and adding substitute recruited from the bank, who was a superb stroke three weeks ago. All this Oxford came out on top over London, world under-23 Champions in eight, with two oarsmen at a coxswain who last year in the world bronze medal in mixed pairs. Yet to be fair, London University have yet to their talented act together.

But this Oxford samurai took place again yesterday, only to win in pain when the conswains no less than Oxford's Sue yon and London's Ellison — wrested yet another martial prize with oars. Five minutes after Oxford ended up almost a length ahead, after several dashes and Conington grey with

ks ago with acute angina, startled their crew and rendered their one-length lead in three minutes in the second test before it was wisely abandoned.

Reinbold was then rescued by the crew and Oxford's samurai coach Dan Toki joined in for the third final effort. Oxford were open to be taken for the successive time, yet went on and the day with a victory half a length.

Squash rackets

Opposite sides of county fence for Kendal-born brothers

By Rex Bellamy

Yorkshire won the inter-county championship for the seventh consecutive year by beating Lancashire 3-2 in yesterday's final sponsored by Cooper Vision at Lee-on-Solent. Lancashire may have been slightly flattered by the margin because Yorkshire already had an impressive 3-1 lead when David Pearson confounded the national and world rankings by beating Ian Robinson 7-9, 4-9, 9-4, 9-4 in a first-strings match that had been deprived of some of its competitive validity but ultimately was won and lost on merit.

Even without Chrisy Willstrop, who had been otherwise engaged in the world junior championship at Kuala Lumpur, Yorkshire could still call on four of the top 13 men in the English rankings. Their only outside chance in the final was that Yorkshire's strength in depth would have been too much for them, anyway.

Jamie Hickox, another competitor at Kuala Lumpur, was missing from the Surrey team who took Lancashire to deciding rubber. He was seriously injured from behind by Barry Watkins — in Saturday's semi-final round. Surrey's wins came from two players with wealth of experience compensated for declining energies — first Bob Johnson, then Stuart Courtney, who put Surrey level by still saving three match points during

an exciting, improbable recovery from 0-8 down in the fifth game. Against Hampshire, whose only success occurred when Bryan Pearson, nursing a troublesome achilles tendon in readiness for the final, gave John Leaver no more than a cursory workout in a dead match. This superficially embarrassing concession worked out as Pearson and Yorkshire hoped it would because he was lively enough to give Yorkshire their decisive win by crisply disposing of the inevitably jaded Watkins yesterday.

The presence of the Pearson brothers on opposite sides yesterday needs explaining, especially as they were born in Kendal. It just happened that Bryan moved to Rotterdam, David to Preston, and that they thus acquired residential qualifications for two counties never renowned for any brotherly appreciation of each other's qualities.

For a time yesterday it seemed that Yorkshire could not quite strenuously exercise with the hours usually reserved for the arduous and consumption of Sunday lunch. Andrew Gill was much too sharp for the sluggishly predictable Richard Moseley, who may have underrated him. On the other hand, Gill was much too distant a target for Moseley, who is a formidable shot of his seventeenth birthday, saved two match points in the fourth game and kept Steve Bateman on court for an hour and 17 minutes.

While these two were still debating whether Lancashire

would acquire a 2-0 lead, the ever-scene Ashley Naylor prevented it by beating Mark Hornby next door. Naylor and Bateman in turn took Yorkshire out of a nasty crunch. Bryan Pearson sent them roaring home, and David Pearson then achieved a belated triumph.

SEMI-FINAL ROUNDS: Yorkshire 4, Hampshire 1 (Yorkshire names first): 1 Robinson beat J. Easter 8-10, 9-8, 10-8, 10-8; 2 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 3 Naylor beat M. Hornby 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 4 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 5 Watkins beat G. Hoare 8-10, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 6 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 7 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 8 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 9 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 10 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 11 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 12 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 13 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 14 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 15 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 16 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 17 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 18 Pearson beat J. Leaver 10-8, 10-8, 10-8, 10-8; 19 Pearson beat J. 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Recruitment Opportunities

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Senior Secretary. Good salary. Details call 01-839 1602/4 and 839 2831.

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Commercial property by Gareth David

Record 'To Let' signs but building goes on

Industrial development and activity is continuing despite rising vacancy rates — factories and warehouse buildings standing empty with King & Co are estimated at a total of 120m sq ft.

According to the latest review of the market from south coast agents L. S. Vail, South Hampshire has the largest total of vacant industrial buildings in memory. Much of the empty property is, however, unsuited for modern industry.

In little over a year the agents report that the amount of empty industrial space available for tenants has grown by about 50 per cent although over the last 18 months the figure jumped by 250 per cent. Vail has 2,25m sq ft of new and second-hand factory and warehouse accommodation in its books while it estimates that the total vacant space in the Solent Corridor is around 3.25m sq ft.

Vail thinks this growth cannot be blamed solely on the recession. Much of the space was in the pipeline 18 months ago and the bulge followed the allocation of more industrial land in the South Hampshire Structure Plan. Even so, the agents claim, there are areas of relative shortages and high demand.

At the top end of the market investment yields remained virtually unchanged but the definition of the market has changed. It applies only to freehold property let at full rental value on an institutional lease incorporating upward only rent review.

There is an apparent anomaly that the only sector where yields have fallen has been on prime retail property at a time when consumer spending is at a very depressed level. This reflects

"There is an urgent need for good quality and new industrial development of greater flexibility which will meet the increasingly sophisticated requirements of high technology industry", say the agents.

Vail feels that there must be a greater move towards the science park concept of industrial development which leans towards low density and high landscaping qualities where units contain a higher proportion of office content.

Already, there are moves in this direction. Plans for the area's first science park have been laid by Windover Projects, who are proposing a 60m scheme in a 47-acre wooded site, to the west of junction 8 of the M27. The development would provide jobs for 1,500 people.

Southampton University wants to develop a 20-acre site at Chilworth Manor with as many as 14 research and development units.

Yet the agents warn against too much Ministry of Defence land finding its way to the market in the wake of the run-down of the Naval Dockyards at Portsmouth.

Vail reports that although Portsea Island has suffered from land starvation for years, there is now an adequate supply of serviced industrial land.

A spin-off from the present glut of industrial property in the Solent area is that it has persuaded many previously intractable institutional landlords to be more flexible in their attitude to prospective tenants.

The property market in France has remained relatively stable in spite of the radical changes promised by the ruling socialist/communist coalition, according to the Paris Office of estate

agents Weatherall Green & Smith.

There is a strong institutional market so the property market is well equipped to cope with legislative changes, the agents report says. One of the first changes will be the introduction of a wealth tax which could result in a predominance in the retail sector to institutions as private investors are encouraged to sell.

As a result of the elections many institutional investors withdrew from the market altogether while others dramatically reduced their commitments. Most purchases since the election have been up to Fr 10m (£100,000), often in the form of office suites rather than major development schemes.

As far as larger office investments are concerned, Weatheralls say a number of French pension funds which have in the past held only a small percentage of office buildings in their portfolio, are likely to remain prominent in the market unless steps are taken by the Government to limit their tax advantages.

The letting market for Paris offices has suffered an acute shortage of large centrally-located space, the report says, with the result that the established bracket of rents is between Fr 1,000 and Fr 1,600 sq metre per annum.

In the suburbs, particularly La Defense which is the main office area west of Paris, most new buildings are pre-let as a result of negotiations which took place in the last two years. One of the few major projects in the development where the rents agreed of Fr 1,500 sq metre are the highest recorded in Paris.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE, CHANCERY DIVISION, IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT, 1947.

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COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

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COMMERCIAL PROPERTY IN EUROPE

Office Service in Munich

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Office Service in Munich

Office Service in Munich

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Office Service in Munich

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Accurate Multi-Lingual Typing Services

Adjectives Ltd

Agfa-Gevaert Ltd

Alphacore Ltd

Alphacore Ltd

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